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BILL NO.: **HB 670**

TITLE: Family Law – Investigation of Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect – Preliminary Report to State’s Attorney

SPONSOR: Chair, Judiciary Committee (By Request - Departmental - Human Services)

COMMITTEE: Judiciary

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 13, 2020

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 670 – Family Law – Investigation of Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect – Preliminary Report to State’s Attorney. This bill repeals a requirement that social services or law enforcement provide a local State’s Attorney (SAO) with a report on the preliminary findings of an investigation of suspected child abuse or neglect within ten days of receiving notice of suspected child abuse or neglect.

Currently, the requirement that investigative findings be sent to the SAO places an unnecessary administrative burden on both the SAOs and local social services agencies. Removing this requirement will cut down on superfluous red tape and delays in assistance to victims of abuse and neglect. Baltimore County views this bill as an opportunity to increase efficiency for agencies and offices that conduct work that is vital to supporting vulnerable populations.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 670. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Chief Legislative Officer, at 443-900-6582.