

SENATE BILL 240

J1, J3
HB 279/16 – HGO

7lr1453

By: **Senators Robinson, Conway, Klausmeier, Muse, and Nathan–Pulliam**

Introduced and read first time: January 20, 2017

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Department of Health and Mental Hygiene – Abuser Registry Workgroup**
3 **Recommendations – Report**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to report on
5 the status of the implementation of certain recommendations of the Abuser Registry
6 Workgroup; specifying certain recommendations on which the Department must
7 report; requiring the Department to submit a certain report to the Governor and the
8 General Assembly on or before a certain date; and generally relating to the Abuser
9 Registry Workgroup and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

10 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
11 That:

12 (a) The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall provide a progress report
13 on the status of the implementation of the recommendations of the Abuser Registry
14 Workgroup, which was originally convened in 2012 and reconvened by Chapter 239 of 2013.

15 (b) Specifically, the Department shall report on:

16 (1) the creation of a definition of “abuse” that is universal throughout the
17 Maryland Annotated Code;

18 (2) reducing instances of abuse and neglect in health care settings through
19 efforts to educate consumers, providers, direct access employees, first responders, and
20 prosecutors about reporting obligations, raising abuse and neglect awareness, and
21 implementing and enforcing laws consistently across the State;

22 (3) assessing the feasibility of establishing an employee database of direct
23 access employees as part of the Maryland Background Check Program or as a separate and
24 parallel system; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(4) establishing the Maryland Background Check Program for use as a tool to reduce abuse, neglect, and the misappropriation of funds in long-term care facilities.

(c) On or before September 1, 2017, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall report to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly on the implementation of the recommendations of the Abuser Registry Workgroup specified in subsection (b) of this section.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2017.