

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That Section 7B be and it is hereby added to Article 62 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1972 Replacement Volume), title "Marriages," to follow immediately after Section 7A thereof, and to read as follows:

7B.

EXCEPT IN CAROLINE, CECIL, KENT, QUEEN ANNE'S, AND TALBOT COUNTIES THE CLERKS OF THE COURT SHALL, AT THE TIME OF ISSUANCE OF A MARRIAGE LICENSE, [[DISTRIBUTE]] MAKE AVAILABLE TO THE APPLICANTS THEREFOR, BIRTH CONTROL INFORMATION AND A LIST OF FAMILY PLANNING CLINICS LOCATED IN THE COUNTY OR CITY OF THE ISSUING OFFICE. THESE LISTS AND INFORMATION SHALL BE FURNISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1973.

Approved May 24, 1973.

CHAPTER 835

(House Bill 1056)

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Section 35A of Article 27 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1971 Replacement Volume), title "Crimes and Punishments," subtitle "I. Crimes and Punishments," subheading "Child Abuse," and Section 4 of Article 35 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1971 Replacement Volume and 1972 Supplement), title "Evidence," subtitle "Competency of Witness," [[and to generally amend the laws on child abuse.]] to provide certain definitions in the child abuse law and to mandate the reporting of suspected child abuse to certain agencies, and providing for cooperative efforts by certain agencies in cases of child abuse, and extending immunity to persons who report child abuse cases in good faith, and generally clarifying and extending the law relating to child abuse.

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That Section 35A of Article 27 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1971 Replacement Volume), title "Crimes and Punishments," subtitle "I. Crimes and Punishments," subheading "Child Abuse," be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, and Section 4 of Article 35 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1971 Replacement Volume and 1972 Supplement), title "Evidence," subtitle "Competency of Witness," be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

35A.

PURPOSE.- THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HEREBY DECLARES AS ITS LEGISLATIVE INTENT AND PURPOSE THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN THE SUBJECT OF ABUSE BY MANDATING THE REPORTING OF SUSPECTED ABUSE, BY EXTENDING IMMUNITY TO THOSE WHO REPORT IN GOOD FAITH, BY REQUIRING PROMPT INVESTIGATIONS OF SUCH REPORTS AND BY CAUSING IMMEDIATE, COOPERATIVE EFFORTS BY THE