

Preamble

The General Assembly finds that:

(1) This State has a duty to locate and protect children who are reported missing;

(2) The number of missing children has increased, and this problem requires a statewide system for exchanging information, a central repository for information on missing children, and special training for law enforcement personnel;

(3) The first 24 to 48 hours after a child is reported missing are crucial, and law enforcement agencies responsible for investigating reports of missing children should establish procedures to begin an investigation as soon as a report is received; and

(4) Children, parents, educators, and others should be educated about child protection; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article - Family Law

9-401-

~~THE-GENERAL-ASSEMBLY-FINDS-THAT-~~

~~{1}--THIS-STATE-HAS--A--DUTY--TO--LOCATE--AND--PROTECT CHILDREN-WHO-ARE-REPORTED-MISSING;~~

~~{2}--THE-NUMBER-OF-MISSING-CHILDREN-HAS-INCREASED,-AND THIS---PROBLEM---REQUIRES---A--STATEWIDE--SYSTEM--FOR--EXCHANGING INFORMATION,-A-CENTRAL--REPOSITORY--FOR--INFORMATION--ON--MISSING CHILDREN,-AND-SPECIAL-TRAINING-FOR-LAW-ENFORCEMENT-PERSONNEL;~~

~~{3}--THE--FIRST--24--TO--48--HOURS--AFTER--A--CHILD-IS REPORTED--MISSING--ARE--CRUCIAL,-AND--LAW--ENFORCEMENT--AGENCIES RESPONSIBLE--FOR-INVESTIGATING-REPORTS-OF-MISSING-CHILDREN-SHOULD ESTABLISH-PROCEDURES-TO-BEGIN--AN--INVESTIGATION--AS--SOON--AS--A REPORT-IS-RECEIVED,-AND~~

~~{4}--CHILDREN,-PARENTS,-EDUCATORS,-AND-OTHERS-SHOULD BE-EDUCATED-ABOUT-CHILD-PROTECTION.~~

9-402- 9-401.

(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.