

CHAPTER 167

(House Bill 588)

AN ACT concerning

Criminal Law - Child Abuse and Child Sexual Abuse - Increased Penalties

FOR the purpose of prohibiting certain persons with permanent or temporary care or custody or responsibility for the supervision of a minor from causing abuse resulting in ~~serious~~ severe physical injury or death to the minor; altering certain penalties for child abuse; establishing the offenses of child abuse in the first and second degrees; increasing certain penalties for child sexual abuse; establishing certain penalties for certain subsequent convictions of certain offenses; defining a certain term; and generally relating to penalties for abuse and sexual abuse of a minor.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Criminal Law

Section 3-601 and 3-602

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2002 Volume)

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

Article - Criminal Law

3-601.

(a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

(2) "Abuse" means physical injury sustained by a minor as a result of cruel or inhumane treatment or as a result of a malicious act under circumstances that indicate that the minor's health or welfare is harmed or threatened by the treatment or act.

(3) "Family member" means a relative of a minor by blood, adoption, or marriage.

(4) "Household member" means a person who lives with or is a regular presence in a home of a minor at the time of the alleged abuse.

(5) "~~SERIOUS~~ SEVERE PHYSICAL INJURY" MEANS:

~~(I) ANY BONE FRACTURE;~~

~~(II) ANY INTERNAL INJURY OR BLEEDING;~~

~~(III) SECOND OR THIRD DEGREE BURNS;~~

~~(IV) POISONING;~~