

# HOUSE BILL 495

E3  
HB 1235/15 – HRU

9lr2228  
CF SB 401

---

By: **Delegates Valentino–Smith, Bartlett, J. Lewis, Moon, and Sydnor**

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2019

Assigned to: Judiciary

---

## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Juvenile Law – Informal Adjustment**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing a certain court to refer a certain matter to the Department  
4 of Juvenile Services for a certain informal adjustment under certain circumstances;  
5 requiring a certain petition to be dismissed under certain circumstances; and  
6 generally relating to juvenile causes.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
8 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings  
9 Section 3–8A–10(e)  
10 Annotated Code of Maryland  
11 (2013 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

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

14 **Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

15 3–8A–10.

16 (e) (1) The intake officer may propose an informal adjustment of the matter if,  
17 based on the complaint and the inquiry, the intake officer concludes that the court has  
18 jurisdiction but that an informal adjustment, rather than judicial action, is in the best  
19 interests of the public and the child.

20 (2) The intake officer shall propose an informal adjustment by informing  
21 the victim, the child, and the child’s parent or guardian of the nature of the complaint, the  
22 objectives of the adjustment process, and the conditions and procedures under which it will  
23 be conducted.

24 (3) The intake officer may not proceed with an informal adjustment unless

---

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 the victim, the child, and the child's parent or guardian consent to the informal adjustment  
2 procedure.

3           **(4) (I) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS**  
4 **PARAGRAPH, AFTER A PETITION IS FILED, THE COURT MAY, ON MOTION OF ANY**  
5 **PARTY, REFER THE MATTER TO THE DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE SERVICES FOR AN**  
6 **INFORMAL ADJUSTMENT.**

7           **(II) IF AN INFORMAL ADJUSTMENT UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH**  
8 **HAS BEEN SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED, THE PETITION SHALL BE DISMISSED.**

9           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
10 October 1, 2019.