

HOUSE BILL 1404

E4

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By: **Delegates McComas, Glass, Parrott, Valentino-Smith, and B. Wilson**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2017

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Safety – Sexual Assault Examination Kits – Best Practices Study**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Secretary of State Police, the Forensic Laboratory
4 Advisory Committee, and the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene to collaborate
5 on research to improve the State's collection, testing, and storage of sexual assault
6 examination kits, as well as victim notification procedures; requiring the research to
7 include certain issues, to identify certain improvements, to outline a certain plan,
8 and to recommend certain regulations; requiring the Secretary of State Police to
9 submit a certain report to the General Assembly on or before a certain date; and
10 generally relating to sexual assault examination kits.

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

13 (a) The Secretary of State Police, or the Secretary's designee, working
14 collaboratively with the Forensic Laboratory Advisory Committee and the Secretary of
15 Health and Mental Hygiene, or the Secretary's designee, shall research best practices for
16 the collection, testing, and storage of sexual assault examination kits and victim
17 notification procedures.

18 (b) The research shall include examining the practices and procedures of
19 neighboring states, reviewing scientific publications, and soliciting input from experts
20 regarding best practices for the collection, testing, and storage of sexual assault
21 examination kits, as well as the feasibility and benefits of improved victim notification
22 during the sexual assault examination kit testing process.

23 (c) The research shall identify areas where the State could improve its own
24 practices, and outline a plan for the implementation of improved practices, as well as
25 recommend any regulations to be adopted by any agency to improve collection, testing, and
26 storage of sexual assault examination kits and victim notification procedures.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (d) On or before December 1, 2018, the Secretary of State Police shall submit a
2 report on the research conducted under this section to the General Assembly, in accordance
3 with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article.

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