

SENATE BILL 594

D4

0lr1908

By: **Senator Lee**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2020

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Child Custody and Visitation – Abuse or Neglect of Child**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring a court, in a custody or visitation proceeding, to deny custody
4 or visitation rights to a certain party under certain circumstances, unless the court
5 states the reasons for a certain finding; altering the conditions of a certain supervised
6 visitation arrangement that a court is authorized to approve; and generally relating
7 to child custody and visitation.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article – Family Law
10 Section 9–101
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2019 Replacement Volume)

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

15 **Article – Family Law**

16 9–101.

17 (a) In any custody or visitation proceeding, if the court has reasonable grounds to
18 believe that a child has been abused or neglected by a party to the proceeding, the court
19 shall determine whether abuse or neglect is likely to occur if custody or visitation rights
20 are granted to the party.

21 (b) Unless the court specifically finds that there is no likelihood of further child
22 abuse or neglect by the party **AND STATES THE REASONS FOR THE FINDING**, the court
23 shall deny custody or visitation rights to that party, except that the court may approve a
24 supervised visitation arrangement, **WITH NEUTRAL AND PHYSICALLY PRESENT**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **SUPERVISION**, that assures the safety and the physiological, psychological, and emotional
2 well-being of the child.

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
4 October 1, 2020.