

2007 Maryland Legislative Session Highlights - Child Support Bills

House Bill 263 – Chapter 16/Senate Bill 154 – Chapter 15 – Child Support Enforcement – Child Support Payment Incentive Program – These bills require the Child Support Enforcement Administration (CSEA) to establish a statewide program to encourage the payment on child support by low-income obligors. Under the program, the Administration would enter into an agreement with obligors to reduce arrears owed to the State on the condition that the obligor would make current support payments on a regular basis over a specified period of time. Specifically, the program provides that after 12 months of uninterrupted child support payments, the assigned arrears would be reduced by 50%; the remaining arrears would be reduced to zero after 24 months of uninterrupted payments. The program would be limited to those obligors whose income does not exceed 225% of the federal poverty level.

House Bill 265 – Chapter 36/Senate Bill 503 – Chapter 35 – Family Law – Child Support – Health Insurance – These bills change the way the cost of health insurance is treated in the guidelines calculation. The cost would no longer be treated as an adjustment to the gross income of the parent paying the premiums, but rather be added to the basic support obligation and then shared by the parents in proportion to their relative incomes.

House Bill 422 – Alimony and Child Support – Exemption from Execution on a Judgment – This bill exempts money paid or payable for alimony or child support obligations from execution on a judgment.

House Bill 536 – Paternity – Dependent Disabled Child - The Bill requires that paternity for a disabled child be established before the child's twenty-first birthday. Currently, the law requires that paternity be established before the child's eighteenth birthday.

House Bill 636 – Prince George's County – Task Force to Improve Child Support Compliance PG 426-07 - House Bill 636 establishes a Task Force for the purpose of improving child support compliance in Prince George's County. Specifically, the Bill requires the Task Force to develop a plan and draft legislation to improve child support compliance, as well as, submit a report to the Governor and General Assembly regarding its findings and recommendations by July 1, 2008. The Bill identifies the membership and staffing of the Task Force.

House Bill 792 – Family Law – Child Support – Suspension of Attorney Licenses – House Bill 792 alters the definition of "licensing authority" to specifically include the Court of Appeals in provisions authorizing a licensing authority to suspend or deny professional licenses for failure to pay court-ordered child support. HB 792 requires CSEA make a referral to suspend an attorney's license to the Attorney Grievance Commission. The Commission may then make a recommendation to the Court of Appeals for a final determination regarding license suspension.

House Bill 1427 – Family Law – Child Support – Collection Fee - House Bill 1427 authorizes the Child Support Enforcement Administration to deduct an annual \$25 collection fee from child support payments in cases in which the family never received temporary cash assistance and has received at least \$500 in child support payments during the federal fiscal year.