

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

Unofficial Copy

1996 Regular Session

(PRE-FILED)

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By: Delegates Hubbard and Owings

Requested: July 3, 1995

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 1996

Assigned to: Judiciary

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Interstate Compact to Expedite Enforcement of Child Support Orders**

3 FOR the purpose of requesting the Governor to explore the establishment of an
4 interstate compact with neighboring states and the District of Columbia to create a
5 database to help locate "deadbeat parents" and to encourage neighboring states to
6 enforce bench warrants issued in Maryland in order to expedite enforcement of
7 child support orders across state lines.

8 WHEREAS, There are many cases where a noncustodial parent who is ordered to
9 pay child support moves out of state to avoid paying the child support; and

10 WHEREAS, Once a noncustodial parent moves out of state, it is often difficult for
11 the courts to track the noncustodial parent down; and

12 WHEREAS, Reports indicate that fewer than half of noncustodial parents make
13 any payments at all for their children's support and that nearly a third of the cases of
14 unpaid child support involve a parent who has moved out of state; and

15 WHEREAS, It is the opinion of the General Assembly that the State of Maryland
16 should develop a plan with neighboring states to create a database that would enable
17 courts to locate deadbeat parents who have moved out of state; and

18 WHEREAS, The State of Maryland should develop an agreement that would
19 encourage neighboring states and the District of Columbia to enforce bench warrants
20 issued in Maryland for violations of child support orders; now, therefore, be it

21 **RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND**, That the
22 General Assembly urges the Governor to explore the establishment of an interstate
23 compact with neighboring states and the District of Columbia that would facilitate the
24 enforcement of child support orders across state lines by utilizing a database created for
25 that purpose and by encouraging Maryland's neighbors to enforce bench warrants issued
26 in this State; and be it further

27 **RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
28 Legislative Reference to the Honorable Parris N. Glendening, Governor of Maryland; the
29 Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate; and the Honorable
30 Casper R. Taylor, Jr., Speaker of the House of Delegates.