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By: **Senator Stone**

Introduced and read first time: January 15, 1999

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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Committee Report: Favorable

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 18, 1999

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CHAPTER\_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Family Law - Denial of or Interference with Visitation - Remedies**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing a court in a custody or visitation proceeding to order  
4 a party who has unjustifiably denied or interfered with visitation rights to pay  
5 certain expenses of the other party; providing for the application of this Act; and  
6 generally relating to remedies for the denial of or interference with visitation  
7 granted in a custody or visitation order.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
9 Article - Family Law  
10 Section 9-105  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (1999 Replacement Volume)

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

15 **Article - Family Law**

16 9-105.

17 In any custody or visitation proceeding, if the court determines that a party to a  
18 custody or visitation order has unjustifiably denied or interfered with visitation  
19 granted by a custody or visitation order, the court may, in addition to any other  
20 remedy available to the court and in a manner consistent with the best interests of  
21 the child, take any or all of the following actions:

22 (1) order that the visitation be rescheduled;

1           (2)       modify the custody or visitation order to require additional terms or  
2 conditions designed to ensure future compliance with the order; [or]

3           (3)       assess costs or counsel fees against the party who has unjustifiably  
4 denied or interfered with visitation rights; OR

5           (4)       ORDER THE PARTY WHO HAS UNJUSTIFIABLY DENIED OR  
6 INTERFERED WITH VISITATION RIGHTS TO PAY TO THE OTHER PARTY THE  
7 REASONABLE EXPENSES, INCLUDING LOST WAGES AND TRAVEL EXPENSES,  
8 INCURRED BY THE OTHER PARTY IN ATTENDING THE CUSTODY OR VISITATION  
9 PROCEEDING.

10       SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall apply to  
11 actions to enforce child custody or visitation orders filed on or after the effective date  
12 of this Act.

13       SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take  
14 effect October 1, 1999.