

HOUSE BILL 993

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2002 Regular Session
2lr1348
CF 2lr2434

By: **Delegates Carlson, W. Baker, Barkley, Barve, Benson, Bobo, Bohanan, Bronrott, Cadden, Conroy, Cryor, DeCarlo, Dembrow, Dypski, Edwards, Franchot, Frush, Goldwater, Gordon, Grosfeld, Hecht, Heller, Hixson, Howard, Hubers, Hurson, A. Jones, V. Jones, Kagan, Kirk, Klausmeier, Klima, Krysiak, Love, Mandel, Marriott, McKee, Menes, Mohorovic, Nathan-Pulliam, Paige, Parrott, Pendergrass, Petzold, Phillips, Riley, Rosso, Rudolph, Shriver, Snodgrass, Sophocleus, Swain, Valderrama, and Zirkin**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2002
Assigned to: Judiciary

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
House action: Adopted
Read second time: March 23, 2002

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Family Law - Child Support - Age of Majority**

3 FOR the purpose of altering certain provisions of law defining the age of majority to
4 provide that a person who has attained the age of 18 years and who is enrolled
5 in secondary school has a right to support and maintenance until the first of
6 certain events occur; establishing that this Act shall be considered a material
7 change in circumstances for purposes of modifying a child support order issued
8 before the effective date of this Act; and generally relating to child support.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article 1 - Rules of Interpretation
11 Section 24
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2001 Replacement Volume)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
15 Article - Family Law
16 Section 5-203(b)
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2001 Supplement)

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

3 **Article 1 - Rules of Interpretation**

4 24.

5 (a) (1) Except as PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION OR AS
6 otherwise specifically provided by statute, a person eighteen years of age or more is
7 an adult for all purposes whatsoever and has the same legal capacity, rights, powers,
8 privileges, duties, liabilities, and responsibilities as prior to July 1, 1973, persons had
9 at twenty-one years of age, and the "age of majority" is hereby declared to be eighteen
10 years.

11 (2) A PERSON WHO HAS ATTAINED THE AGE OF 18 YEARS AND WHO IS
12 ENROLLED IN SECONDARY SCHOOL HAS THE RIGHT TO RECEIVE SUPPORT AND
13 MAINTENANCE FROM BOTH OF THE PERSON'S PARENTS UNTIL THE FIRST TO OCCUR
14 OF THE FOLLOWING EVENTS:

15 (I) THE PERSON DIES;

16 (II) THE PERSON MARRIES;

17 (III) THE PERSON IS EMANCIPATED;

18 (IV) THE PERSON GRADUATES FROM OR IS NO LONGER ENROLLED
19 IN SECONDARY SCHOOL; OR

20 (V) THE PERSON ATTAINS THE AGE OF 19 YEARS.

21 (b) (1) The terms "adult", "of full age", or "of legal age" refer to persons who
22 have attained the age of eighteen years.

23 (2) [The] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (A)(2) OF THIS SECTION,
24 THE term "minor", as it pertains to legal age and capacity, refers to persons who have
25 not attained the age of eighteen years.

26 **Article - Family Law**

27 5-203.

28 (b) The parents of a minor child, AS DEFINED IN ARTICLE 1, SECTION 24 OF
29 THE CODE:

30 (1) are jointly and severally responsible for the child's support, care,
31 nurture, welfare, and education; and

32 (2) have the same powers and duties in relation to the child.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall be
2 considered to be a material change of circumstances for purposes of modifying a child
3 support order issued before the effective date of this Act.

4 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
5 October 1, 2002.