

**MARYLAND JUDICIAL CONFERENCE**  
**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Hon. Matthew J. Fader  
Chief Justice

187 Harry S. Truman Parkway  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
**FROM:** Legislative Committee  
Suzanne D. Pelz, Esq.  
410-260-1523  
**RE:** Senate Bill 174  
Child Support – Suspension of Driver’s Licenses  
**DATE:** January 11, 2024  
(2/7)  
**POSITION:** Support

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The Maryland Judiciary supports Senate Bill 174. This bill would amend the circumstances and process set out in Family Law Article, § 10-119 under which the Child Support Administration (CSA) may notify the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) of an individual’s child support arrearages in order to suspend the individual’s driver’s license or privilege to drive.

This bill would increase the operational efficiency of the court. Currently, persons are repeatedly suspended, restored, and res-suspended with a multitude of hearings required. This bill will help ensure suspensions are not used inappropriately and will streamline and target the process for the courts.

The Judiciary notes that it would be helpful to have a definition for the term “arrearage balance,” (see page 4, lines 14-15 and 20). It is unclear whether “arrearage balance” is the entire arrearage owed or the most recent amount that the obligor has not paid. For example, if the obligor has a \$1,000 per month child support obligation, a \$250 per month arrearage payment obligation, and is \$10,000 in arrears, must the court find that the obligor has the ability to pay the entire \$10,000 arrearage balance (or is otherwise voluntarily impoverished) to determine that suspension is appropriate?

cc. Hon. C. Anthony Muse  
Judicial Council  
Legislative Committee  
Kelley O’Connor