

# **Guilbaud for HB1440.pdf**

Uploaded by: Angelie Guilbaud

Position: FAV

My name is Angélie Guilbaud, homeowner and resident in Baltimore City, Maryland (21218). I am here in complete support (FAV) of HB1440 and to share my experience. I want to start by saying what an honor it is to be able to serve on a jury. It is a privilege citizens of this country hold and it must be taken seriously. It is crucial that those serving on the jury do so with the utmost attention, commitment, and respect. As a nursing mother and primary caregiver of young children that is not possible.

I have chosen to stay home with my child for many reasons, not least of which is financial as childcare cost more than I made as a teacher in Baltimore City. When I got the jury summons I was 6 months I postpartum, exclusively breastfeeding, had never used a pump and had only spent one hour away from my infant daughter. I called to postpone my duty but the best they said they could do was two months. I explained that my child would still be breastfeeding at 8 months- CDC recommends at least two years for the health of mother and child. I could not afford childcare, nor would I be comfortable leaving my child with a stranger. My parents do not live in Maryland and my husband and in-laws work in education and in the medical profession and can not easily take off work for my jury duty. The lady on the phone said it wasn't their problem and I needed to find child care - end of story and a lactation room was available so the fact that I breastfeed wasn't an issue as far as the city was concerned. She also shared that since she lives in the county she was able to postpone her jury duty due to breastfeeding but could not do the same for me since I live in the city.

I was furious and anxious. I'd never pumped, I had never left my baby for more than an hour, and my daughter was not used to using a bottle. My husband, a Baltimore City public school teacher, had to use one of his sick days in order for me to go to jury duty. I

practiced pumping for two days in order to understand how to use the contraption and have milk for when I was gone while also breastfeeding my child which resulted in painful over production. On the day of my jury duty I was leaking and in so much pain when waiting in line to ask to use the lactation room, that I had to embarrassingly ask everyone if I could cut the line so I could be escorted to the room. If I do not nurse right away I learned that I quickly develop blocked ducts that can lead to mastitis, a painful infection of the breast tissue.

Walking into the lactation room it stated no eating or drinking- two things necessary when nursing, or in this case pumping. I felt dehumanized. Sitting in a chair, with a machine painfully sucking milk from my breasts as I read a poster haphazardly leaning against the wall that stated the benefits of breastfeeding according to the CDC. Yes, I thought, I'd much rather be feeding my child than this machine.

When it came time to clean my pump there was no sink and I had to use the water fountain.

While waiting to hear my number, I realized that were I to be called to serve on a jury I would not be able to have my water-something medically necessary when nursing. I would also be a distraction, needing to stop and nurse right away or else develop painful clogged ducts, a request that would not only disrupt the court but also may not be granted resulting in painful mastitis. I would not have been able to focus on the case in front of me were I called which is a great disservice to all those involved.

Upon returning home I learned that my child had refused to take a bottle as she had never been without me. That was 8 hours without milk. She spent the last two hours crying nonstop until she slept.

I still cannot believe the first time I spent time away from my daughter was not my own choice, was not when we were ready, but was dictated to me by the City government as though I was the one being punished for a crime. My husband chose to work for this city as a public school teacher and when we were able to buy a house we chose to buy in the city because we love this city and we want to see it prosper. Baltimore needs its families and it needs its families to thrive in the city in order for the city to grow and become all it can be.

When I found out I had no choice but to leave my baby against my will it felt like this city and this state didn't care about families and did not care about keeping families in the city. In that moment I regretted our decision to stay in Baltimore City, wishing to go back to the state I grew up in - which broke my heart. My old home state allows nursing mothers to postpone jury duty until they have finished nursing and allows those who take care of a dependent to defer if they can not afford care. Why stay in a city that forces nursing mothers away from their children for any amount of time? These protections and exemptions already exist in certain counties in Maryland. It's time to protect all of Marylands citizens.

Thank you for your time and your consideration.

Angelie Guilbaud

Baltimore , Maryland 21218

## **HB1440 Parental Bill Sponsor Senate Testimony (1).**

Uploaded by: Delegate Robbyn Lewis

Position: FAV

**ROBBYN LEWIS**  
*Legislative District 46*  
Baltimore City

Environment and Transportation  
Committee  
Chair, Land use and Ethics Subcommittee  
  
*House Chair*  
Joint Committee on Program Open Space  
and Agricultural Land Preservation



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**THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES**  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Sponsor Testimony**

**HB 1440 – Courts – Parental Accommodations**

Judicial Proceedings Committee

26 March 2025

Thank you, Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee. I am Delegate Robbyn Lewis, here to present House Bill 1440, a bill that improves accommodations for breastfeeding parents and caregivers of small children within Maryland’s judicial system.

This bill requires that any circuit courthouse constructed or undergoing a major renovation on or after October 1, 2025, must include a private lactation room. This room must be available to both courthouse employees and members of the public. It must include a chair and table, a nearby electrical outlet to accommodate breast pumps, a sink, a refrigerator, and a door that locks from the inside to ensure privacy. This is a basic, practical accommodation that acknowledges the needs of nursing mothers and allows them to participate in public life without sacrificing their health or their children’s well-being.

Secondly, the bill expands the grounds for excusal from jury duty. Current law allows excusal due to extreme inconvenience, undue hardship, or public necessity. HB1440 adds two additional grounds: being a breastfeeding mother and having legal custody of and personal responsibility for a child under the age of three who requires continuous care during normal court hours. These changes bring our code into alignment with the lived realities of many Maryland families and affirm that caring for young children is a serious responsibility that deserves accommodation.

Finally, to ensure transparency and consistency in the implementation of these new excusal options, the bill also requires the Maryland Judiciary to collect and report annual data on excusal requests and outcomes. The report must include the number of requests, the number granted or denied and disaggregate the information by jurisdiction and the type of excusal requested.

Like many important legislative efforts, this bill was inspired by a constituent. Rachel Wagner, a resident of District 46, reached out to me and my colleagues after experiencing firsthand the challenges posed by Maryland’s current jury service system. Her story is not unique. Across the state, parents, especially mothers, are struggling to balance civic obligations with the demands of early parenthood. House Bill 1440 is a thoughtful, modest step toward meeting them where they are.

Given the childcare challenges faced by so many Maryland families, this bill is both practical and necessary. It helps strike a fairer balance between civic engagement and family life. Other states have already moved in this direction. Twenty-two states, including California, Connecticut, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, and Virginia, already allow breastfeeding mothers to be excused from jury duty. States like California and Florida also require courthouses to provide public lactation rooms. Maryland should follow these best practices and demonstrate that our state supports all citizens in fulfilling both their civic duties and family responsibilities.

I respectfully urge a favorable report on HB1440. Thank you for your time and consideration.

# **HB1440 Parental Bill Sponsor Senate Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Delegate Robbyn Lewis

Position: FAV



**ROBBYN LEWIS**  
*Legislative District 46*  
Baltimore City

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This bill proposes two key reforms. First, it requires that any circuit courthouse constructed or undergoing a major renovation on or after October 1, 2025, must include a private lactation room. This room must be available to both courthouse employees and members of the public. It must include a chair and table, a nearby electrical outlet to accommodate breast pumps, a sink, a refrigerator, and a door that locks from the inside to ensure privacy. This is a basic, practical accommodation that acknowledges the needs of nursing mothers and allows them to participate in public life without sacrificing their health or their children’s well-being.

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## **FAV\_HB1440.pdf**

Uploaded by: Megan Boddy-Pickard

Position: FAV

HB1440

FAV - Letter of testimony in support of the bill

I am a full time mom, while my husband works full time. When I was called for jury duty, my husband had to take personal time off work because I had no one else to take care of my toddler since I am his primary caregiver. I was called into a courtroom for jury selection and got all the way through the process to being seated on a jury. The trial was expected to last a few weeks. I explained to the judge that if I was selected, my husband would have to take that time off work to care for my toddler since he doesn't attend any kind of daytime care program. Luckily, the judge dismissed me. It felt like a waste of time for the court as well as my family for me to complete jury duty since I was dismissed for a reason which would have been present regardless of the case. Why call someone to jury duty that will be dismissed after wasting everyone's time being there? Serving on a jury is an undue burden on full time parents because not only are they taking time away from their job as a full time caregiver, they are also having to find another adult in their life who will be taken away from whatever job that other adult performs.

Thank you for your consideration to improve the lives of parents in Maryland.

Megan Boddy-Pickard  
Baltimore City, 21230

# **Nies HB1440 favor 2025 0225.pdf**

Uploaded by: Melanie Nies

Position: FAV

## Blalock-Taussig-Thomas Pediatric and Congenital Heart Center

Bloomberg Children's Center  
M 2303  
1800 Orleans Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21287



(410) 955-5987 – Academic office  
(443) 997-KIDS – Appointments  
(410) 955-0897 - Fax  
On-Line appointments:  
[pedcardioappt@jhmi.edu](mailto:pedcardioappt@jhmi.edu)

02/25/2025

Patient Education:  
[www.pted.org](http://www.pted.org)

Maryland General Assembly

William Ravekes, MD  
Interim Chief, Division of Pediatric  
Cardiology  
Director, Pediatric Cardiac  
Transplantation and MSC  
Associate Professor of Pediatrics

John Thomson, MD  
Director, Cardiology Clinical Operations  
Director Cardiac  
Catheterization Laboratory

Ari Cedars, MD  
Director of ACHD

Caridad M. de la Uz, M.D.  
Director of Pediatric Electrophysiology

Ashish Doshi, MD  
Director of Congenital Cardiac MRI

Melanie Nies, MD  
Director  
Pediatric Cardiology Echocardiography  
Laboratory

Cedric Manlihot, PhD  
Director, CV Analytic Intelligence  
Initiative (CV-AI<sup>2</sup>)

Hannah Frait, MD  
Director, Fellowship Program

Benjamin Barnes, MD

Shelby Kutty, MD, PhD, M.H.C.M.  
Helen B. Taussig Professor

John Coulson, MD

Allen Everett, MD

W. Reid Thompson, MD

Rukmalee Vithana, MD

Sruti Rao, MD

Carmel Bogle, MD

Glenn Wetzel, MD-PhD

Jun Yang, PhD

Consuela Thompson, MSN, CPNP

Kate Porter, CRNP

Kathy Byrne, RN, CRNP

Kaami Todd, DNP, RNC-NIC, APRN,  
CPM-AC

Ligia Jordao, RN

Brenna Corcoran, RN

**Re: HB1440- FAVOR**

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am a Baltimore City resident of 17 years, homeowner, Baltimore City Public school parent teacher organization (PTO) volunteer, local church volunteer, and pediatric cardiologist at Johns Hopkins Hospital writing in support of HB 1440 (**HB1440-FAV**).

As recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics, I breastfed both my sons, and as a proud citizen of Baltimore City, I've shown up for jury duty many times. I consider it my civic duty. I was therefore very disappointed when I was called for jury duty in 2014 and told there were no lactation rooms, and that if I tried to pump, it would have to be in a bathroom with nowhere to store milk safely. I would have to show my baby's birth certificate to be excused. I was excused, but called again when my second child was 18 months old, this time again being told that there were no facilities to pump except the bathroom and I could not be excused this time since child greater than 12 months

During this experience as a nursing mom forced to present for jury duty, I learned firsthand the logistic difficulties of a nursing Mom on jury duty.

**Although there are now lactation rooms, these logistic difficulties still exist.**

Nursing/pumping breaks are difficult to accommodate even while waiting to see if your potential juror number is called, and much more so during voir dire or if chosen for jury duty. I had to take breaks to run to the bathroom to hand-express my breastmilk into the toilet. It is physically uncomfortable and distracting for the mom, not to mention the embarrassment of leaky, engorged breasts, the risk of mastitis/infection from not pumping, and your infant not receiving your breastmilk, endangering milk supply.

Nursing/pumping moms are on a fairly strict schedule – 15-to-30 minute breaks every several hours are not feasible for a juror. Furthermore, 15-30 minute breaks for a single juror, if allowed, threaten the integrity of the trial.

HB 1440 stipulates excusing nursing mothers which is logistically and physiologically the only practical course to protect women and their infants in a very vulnerable time of life, as well as to protect the integrity of the judicial process in which jurors must be fully engaged and present.

As a physician, Mom and proud citizen of Baltimore City, I desire to see justice upheld to the benefit of all involved and therefore I fully support HP 1440. Thank you for reviewing my written testimony in favor of HB 1440.

Re: HB1440- FAVOR, page 2/2

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melanie Nies'.

Dr. Melanie Nies, Pediatric Cardiologist

**HB1440- FAVOR**

Work address: Johns Hopkins Hospital Child Center 1800 Orleans St., Baltimore, MD 21287

Phone number 410 955-5987

Email: [mnies1@jhmi.edu](mailto:mnies1@jhmi.edu)

Residential address can be provided upon request, but I prefer for it not to be public domain

# **HB1440\_FAV\_Testimony-Wagner\_Rachel-for-Senate.pdf**

Uploaded by: Rachel Wagner

Position: FAV



**SENATE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS COMMITTEE**  
**House Bill 1440**  
**Courts- Parental Accommodations**  
**March 26, 2025**

POSITION: FAVORABLE

My name is Rachel Wagner. I am writing in support of HB1440. **While I would love for the bill to expressly excuse breastfeeding mothers and primary caregiving parents from jury service with a “shall” instead of a “may”, I am encouraged by the data collection amendment and the attention this will bring to certain aspects of parenting that are extreme inconveniences and hardships as they relate to jury service.**

I am a lifelong Marylander, and have lived in Baltimore City for the last 16 years. I am a mother of two who breastfed both children. I am a leader in my community, and have owned and operated a small business centered on maternal wellness for just over a decade. I have interacted with thousands of parents since becoming one myself, and I have heard far too many upsetting jury duty stories. I will share some, but not all, to highlight the fact that jury duty can be extremely stressful and inconvenient for families, and share how it can be quite inconvenient for a jury selection process or a trial to accommodate frequently lactating mothers.

RELATED TO CHILDCARE:

Lee, a stay at home mother of two, asked to be excused from jury duty due to lack of childcare. Denied, she brought her children with her, and then was sent home and told not to bring them next time though her circumstances would not be different the next time.

Even though another stay at home mother Victoria had a trusted sitter in mind for her three young children, the rate was \$30 per hour. This burden is an incredible one to bear for most families for one day. Imagine if she or another parent in this situation was chosen to serve on a multi-day trial, and had to pay nearly \$300 per day for childcare.

Hiring a babysitter is costly, not all single income households can afford for the only working parent to miss work, and not all children can easily fall under the care of strangers or even friends. In the absence of their primary caregiver, children may cry incessantly, make themselves sick, refuse to eat, or withhold bowel movements. The stress this puts on a family unit is completely unnecessary.

RELATED TO BREASTFEEDING:

At four months postpartum, Carrie was called to appear for jury service on a hot August day. She had insufficient access to water throughout the day due to courtroom rules and empty water coolers. Carrie also found it difficult to take a lunch break, having to spend most of it trying to access the lactation room and pumping breast milk. A lactating mother needs her own nourishment in order to make food for her baby. Carrie was deprived of her basic needs, and ended the day dehydrated, with a migraine.

Laura and Bethany, two breastfeeding mothers who needed lactation breaks every few hours were both told by judges that, as lactating mothers, they would be an inconvenience to the court and were dismissed. This wasn't an insult to the mothers, just a fact. Similarly, Lindsay shared that she spent so much of the day asking for breaks, moving between buildings, and, while happy to serve, felt that "trials are not set up to accommodate individual jurors' needs to leave every 3 hours for 30 minutes." All lactating mothers who served jury duty also noted the lack of a sink with drinkable water to clean their pumping parts after each use and a place to air dry them, as is recommended by the CDC<sup>1</sup> and breast pump manufacturers<sup>2</sup>.

The most upsetting stories I've heard, however, are similar to that of my friend Angelie who may have submitted her own testimony. Mothers who have only fed their children at the breast have been forced to attach a breast pump to their bodies for the first time, sometimes painfully, and then leave their child for the first time, knowing their child is not likely to drink from a bottle and instead cry for the entirety of the day. A mother should be able to make the choice to use a breast pump and be separated from her child; she should not be forced to do so by the government. That there is not already a law to protect this choice in our great state of Maryland is beyond me.

#### UNFAIR TREATMENT ACROSS THE STATE:

While these stories do not capture those of every Maryland parent, they do happen to be stories of families who all live in Baltimore City. Other counties have excused parents I know simply for having to take their much older children to school and pick them up. Many more yet are never called to serve because of less need. Families living in certain parts of our state should not be at a disadvantage when it comes to the way they feed and care for their children simply because of where they choose to live, if they even have a choice.

#### A FINAL PLEA:

According to my research (included below; pardon the format), at least 30 states and Puerto Rico have adopted laws to excuse lactating mothers or primary care providing parents from jury duty. The first state to have exempted breastfeeding mothers enacted that law in 1994. I am asking this Committee to please vote favorably on HB1440 in 2025.

Thank you.

Rachel Wagner  
Baltimore City, 21230

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/hygiene/about/about-breast-pump-hygiene.html>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.medela.com/en/breastfeeding-pumping/articles/pumping-tips/cleaning-your-breast-pump-equipment>

NOTE: Not all states were able to be researched due to time constraints. Some of the below was taken directly from: <https://www.ncsl.org/health/breastfeeding-state-laws> (2021) and [https://www.everycrsreport.com/reports/RL32928.html#\\_Toc231698027](https://www.everycrsreport.com/reports/RL32928.html#_Toc231698027) (2007)

State/Territory/US	Breastfeeding Link	Breastfeeding Exemption (Y/N)	Year	Exerpt of Law Text - Breastfeeding	Childcare Link	Childcare Exemption (Y/N)	Exerpt of Law Text - Childcare
Alabama	<a href="https://alison.legislature.state.al.us/files/pdf/SearchableInstruments/2025RS/SB76-eng.pdf">https://alison.legislature.state.al.us/files/pdf/SearchableInstruments/2025RS/SB76-eng.pdf</a>	Y	2025	Parker's Law An individual asking to be excused under subdivision (b)(3) shall provide to the court a written statement that she is a nursing mother. (e)(1) A prospective juror excused pursuant to this section shall be exempt from jury service for a period of 24 months			
Alaska	<a href="https://www.akleg.gov/basis/Bill/Detail/24?Root=SB220#ab1_4">https://www.akleg.gov/basis/Bill/Detail/24?Root=SB220#ab1_4</a>	Maybe?	2006	SB220 read, mentions it will be enacted immediately, but not marked as passed, <a href="https://www.mamava.com/breastfeeding-law/alaska">https://www.mamava.com/breastfeeding-law/alaska</a> says mothers do not need to report in alaska		Maybe?	Alaska Stat. § 09.20.030(a) (2007) exempts a person from service as a juror upon showing that the health or proper care of the person's family makes it necessary for the person to be excused.
Arizona	<a href="https://www.azleg.gov/ars/21/00202.htm#:~:text=6-A%20judge%20or%20jury%20commissioner%20of%20the%20court%20for%20which,or%20a%20lack%20of%20transportation.">https://www.azleg.gov/ars/21/00202.htm#:~:text=6-A%20judge%20or%20jury%20commissioner%20of%20the%20court%20for%20which,or%20a%20lack%20of%20transportation.</a>	N		could be seen as childcare/nursing friendly, but sounds like it's left up to the judge: "(c) Undue or extreme physical or financial hardship is limited to the following circumstances in which a person: (i) Would be required to abandon a person under the prospective juror's care or supervision due to the impossibility of obtaining an appropriate substitute caregiver during the period of participation in the jury pool or on the jury." AND "(e) A person who requests to be excused under this paragraph shall provide the judge or jury commissioner with documentation that supports the request to be excused, such as ... proof of dependency or guardianship or other similar documents. The judge or jury commissioner may excuse a person if the documentation clearly supports the request to be excused."			
Arkansas		N		Leaves it to the judge: "An individual may be excused if the judge finds that either the juror's health or family responsibilities reasonably require his or her absence."			
California	<a href="https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=CCP&amp;sectionNum=210.5">https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=CCP&amp;sectionNum=210.5</a>	Y	2000	to allow the mother of a breastfed child to postpone jury duty for a period of up to one year and that after one year, jury duty may be further postponed upon written request by the mother.			
Colorado	<a href="https://www.coloradojudicial.gov/sites/default/files/2024-04/Statutes%20and%20Rules.docx">https://www.coloradojudicial.gov/sites/default/files/2024-04/Statutes%20and%20Rules.docx</a>	Y	2015	A person who is breast-feeding a child and is temporarily unable to or chooses not to leave the child in order to serve on a jury must be excused temporarily from service as a juror for up to two consecutive twelve-month postponements			
Connecticut	<a href="https://www.cga.ct.gov/curren/pub/chap_884.htm#sec_51-217b">https://www.cga.ct.gov/curren/pub/chap_884.htm#sec_51-217b</a>	Y	2012	the Judicial Branch will maintain a website providing prospective jurors with general information regarding jury service, including information for breastfeeding women regarding their ability to postpone jury service. The website will provide information for Jury Administration in the event			
Delaware	<a href="https://delcode.delaware.gov/title10/c045/index.html#4511">https://delcode.delaware.gov/title10/c045/index.html#4511</a>	Y	2015	excuses women who are currently breastfeeding a child from jury service for at least one year.			
Florida	<a href="https://www.flsenate.gov/Sesion/Bill/2010/79/Analyses/20100079HCCJP_h0079b.CCJP.pdf">https://www.flsenate.gov/Sesion/Bill/2010/79/Analyses/20100079HCCJP_h0079b.CCJP.pdf</a>	Y	2024	March of 2023, lawmakers in Florida unanimously approved a measure that requires courthouses across the state to provide free, clean, and private lactation rooms. ntly, Florida law provides that expecting mothers as well as any parent who is not employed full time and who has custody of a child under six years of age must be excused from jury service upon that person's request. Therefore, a mother who is breastfeeding and does not work or works part time may be excused from jury service under current law. However, a breastfeeding mother who works full time may not be excused from jury service. This bill provides that a mother who is breastfeeding a child under two years of age must be excused from jury service upon her request	<a href="https://www.everycrsreport.com/reports/RL32928.html#_ToC231698037">https://www.everycrsreport.com/reports/RL32928.html#_ToC231698037</a>	Y	Fla. Stat. Ann. § 40.013(4) (2006) provides that an expectant mother or a parent who is not employed full time and who has custody of a child under six years of age may, upon request, be excused from jury service. In addition, the statute provides that a person may be excused from jury service upon a showing of hardship, extreme inconvenience, or public necessity.
Georgia					<a href="https://www.everycrsreport.com/reports/RL32928.html#_ToC231698037">https://www.everycrsreport.com/reports/RL32928.html#_ToC231698037</a>	Y	Ga. Code Ann. § 15-12-1(3) (2006) provides an exemption for jury duty to "any person who is the primary caregiver having active care and custody of a child under six years of age or younger...."
Hawaii	<a href="https://casetext.com/statute/hawaii-revised-statutes/division-4-courts-and-judicial-proceedings/title-32-courts-and-c">https://casetext.com/statute/hawaii-revised-statutes/division-4-courts-and-judicial-proceedings/title-32-courts-and-c</a>	Y	2016	A woman who is breastfeeding a child or expressing breast milk for a period of two years from the birth of the child.			
Idaho	<a href="https://legislature.idaho.gov/statutesrules/idstat/Title2/T2C/H2/SECT2-212/">https://legislature.idaho.gov/statutesrules/idstat/Title2/T2C/H2/SECT2-212/</a>	Y	2002	provides that a person who is not disqualified for jury service under § 2-209 may have jury service postponed by the court or the jury commissioner only upon a showing of undue hardship, extreme inconvenience, or public necessity, or upon a showing that the juror is a mother breastfeeding her child.			
Illinois	<a href="https://nebraskalegislature.gov/laws/statutes.php?statute=25-1650">https://nebraskalegislature.gov/laws/statutes.php?statute=25-1650</a>	Y	2005	amends the Jury Act; provides that any mother nursing her child shall, upon her request, be excused from jury duty.	<a href="https://www.everycrsreport.com/reports/RL32928.html#_ToC231698037">https://www.everycrsreport.com/reports/RL32928.html#_ToC231698037</a>	Y	705 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. § 305/10.2(b) (2006). A person may be excused from jury service upon showing that jury service would impose an undue hardship on account of the nature of the prospective juror's family situation. It is further provided that when an undue hardship caused by a family situation is due to the prospective juror being the primary caregiver of a child under age 12, the juror is to be excused if the jury commissioner finds that no reasonable alternative care is feasible which would not impose an undue hardship on the prospective juror.

NOTE: Not all states were able to be researched due to time constraints. Some of the below was taken directly from: <https://www.ncsl.org/health/breastfeeding-state-laws> (2021) and [https://www.everycrsreport.com/reports/RL32928.html#\\_Toc231698027](https://www.everycrsreport.com/reports/RL32928.html#_Toc231698027) (2007)

NOTE: Not all states were able to be researched due to time constraints. Some of the below was taken directly from: <https://www.ncsl.org/health/breastfeeding-state-laws> (2021) and [https://www.everycrsreport.com/reports/RL32928.html#\\_Toc231698027](https://www.everycrsreport.com/reports/RL32928.html#_Toc231698027) (2007)

State/Territory/US	Breastfeeding Link	Breastfeeding Exemption (Y/N)	Year	Exerpt of Law Text - Breastfeeding	Childcare Link	Childcare Exemption (Y/N)	Exerpt of Law Text - Childcare
North Carolina							
North Dakota							
Ohio							
Oklahoma	<a href="http://www.oscn.net/applications/oscn/DeliverDocument.asp?CiteID=439626">http://www.oscn.net/applications/oscn/DeliverDocument.asp?CiteID=439626</a>	Y	2004	exempts mothers who are breastfeeding a baby from jury duty, upon their request.			
Oregon	<a href="https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/bills_laws/ors/ors010.html">https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/bills_laws/ors/ors010.html</a>	Y	1999	excuses a woman from acting as a juror if the woman is breastfeeding a child. A request from the woman must be made in writing.			
Pennsylvania	<a href="https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/li/consCheck.cfm?txtType=HTM&amp;ttl=42&amp;div=00.&amp;chpt=045.&amp;sctn=003.&amp;subscn=000">https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/li/consCheck.cfm?txtType=HTM&amp;ttl=42&amp;div=00.&amp;chpt=045.&amp;sctn=003.&amp;subscn=000</a>	Y	2015	allows breastfeeding women who request to be excused, to be exempt or excused from jury duty.			
Puerto Rico	<a href="https://advance.lexis.com/documentpage/?pdmfid=1000516&amp;crd=769e7c76-68a4-4cbf-b86f-43394ba2235a&amp;nodeid=ABOAAIAAQAQAJ&amp;nodepath=%2FROOT%2FABO%2FABOAAI%2FABOAAIAAQAQ%2FABOAAIAAQAQAJ&amp;level=4&amp;haschildren=&amp;populated=false&amp;title=%C2%A7+1735h.+People+exempt+from+serving+as+jurors&amp;config=00JABkODU1MGi4QC1hMmRklTQ2MGY1OGY1NS03YiViOWM4YjJlZjAKAFBvZENhdGFsb2d0HiKId62itjBDGzN8H7IV&amp;pdDocFullpath=%2Fshared%2Fdocument%2Fstatutes-legislation%2Furn%3Acontenttitlem%3A5CFX-33F1-66SD-84HG-00008-00&amp;eomp=38kkk&amp;prid=9db6927a-725d-4c3a-b14f-21abc28c01fc">https://advance.lexis.com/documentpage/?pdmfid=1000516&amp;crd=769e7c76-68a4-4cbf-b86f-43394ba2235a&amp;nodeid=ABOAAIAAQAQAJ&amp;nodepath=%2FROOT%2FABO%2FABOAAI%2FABOAAIAAQAQ%2FABOAAIAAQAQAJ&amp;level=4&amp;haschildren=&amp;populated=false&amp;title=%C2%A7+1735h.+People+exempt+from+serving+as+jurors&amp;config=00JABkODU1MGi4QC1hMmRklTQ2MGY1OGY1NS03YiViOWM4YjJlZjAKAFBvZENhdGFsb2d0HiKId62itjBDGzN8H7IV&amp;pdDocFullpath=%2Fshared%2Fdocument%2Fstatutes-legislation%2Furn%3Acontenttitlem%3A5CFX-33F1-66SD-84HG-00008-00&amp;eomp=38kkk&amp;prid=9db6927a-725d-4c3a-b14f-21abc28c01fc</a>	Y	2003	states that any woman breastfeeding her child under 24 months old and who presents a medical attestation to such fact is exempt from serving as a juror.			
Rhode Island	<a href="https://webserver.rilegislature.gov/Statutes/TITLE28/28-5/28-5-7.4.HTM">https://webserver.rilegislature.gov/Statutes/TITLE28/28-5/28-5-7.4.HTM</a> <a href="https://webserver.rilegislature.gov/BillText/BillText19/HouseText19/H5286.pdf">https://webserver.rilegislature.gov/BillText/BillText19/HouseText19/H5286.pdf</a>	N		Bill introduced in 2019			
South Carolina					<a href="https://www.everycrsreport.com/reports/RL32928.html#_Toc231698027">https://www.everycrsreport.com/reports/RL32928.html#_Toc231698027</a>	Y	S.C. Code Ann. § 14-07-860(B)(1) (2006) provides authority to a judge to excuse jurors for good cause if the person has legal custody and the duty of care for a child less than seven years of age.
South Dakota	<a href="http://sdlegislature.gov/Statutes/Codified_Laws/DisplayStatute.aspx?Type=Statute&amp;Statute=16-13-10.4">http://sdlegislature.gov/Statutes/Codified_Laws/DisplayStatute.aspx?Type=Statute&amp;Statute=16-13-10.4</a>	Y	2012	provides for an exemption from jury duty for a mother who is breastfeeding a baby younger than one year. A written notice requesting an exemption must be submitted to the clerk of court within ten days of receiving the summons for jury duty.			
Tennessee					<a href="https://www.everycrsreport.com/reports/RL32928.html#_Toc231698027">https://www.everycrsreport.com/reports/RL32928.html#_Toc231698027</a>	Y	Tenn. Code Ann. § 22-1-104(b) (2006) provides an excuse from jury service upon a showing that service will constitute an undue hardship and upon making an oath that the person will, if excused, be caring for the person's child, children, grandchild or grandchildren, or ward.
Texas					<a href="https://www.everycrsreport.com/reports/RL32928.html#_Toc231698027">https://www.everycrsreport.com/reports/RL32928.html#_Toc231698027</a>	Y	Tex. Code Crim. Proc. Code Ann. Art. 19.25.[356][407][395](2) (2006) provides that a person responsible for the care of a child younger than eighteen years may be excused from grand jury service. Tex. Gov't Code Ann. § 62.106(a)(2) (2006) provides that a person qualified to serve as a petit juror may establish an exemption from jury service if the person has legal custody of a child younger than ten years of age and the person's service on the jury requires leaving the child without adequate supervision.
US Congress	<a href="https://www.congress.gov/bills/118th-congress/house-bill/6908/text">https://www.congress.gov/bills/118th-congress/house-bill/6908/text</a>	N	2023	Introduced and just sitting there?			

NOTE: Not all states were able to be researched due to time constraints. Some of the below was taken directly from: <https://www.ncsl.org/health/breastfeeding-state-laws> (2021) and [https://www.everycrsreport.com/reports/RL32928.html#\\_Toc231698027](https://www.everycrsreport.com/reports/RL32928.html#_Toc231698027) (2007)

State/Territory/US	Breastfeeding Link	Breastfeeding Exemption (Y/N)	Year	Exerpt of Law Text - Breastfeeding	Childcare Link	Childcare Exemption (Y/N)	Exerpt of Law Text - Childcare
Utah	<a href="https://le.utah.gov/xcode/Title78B/Chapter1/78B-1-S109.html?v=C78B-1-S109_2015051220150512">https://le.utah.gov/xcode/Title78B/Chapter1/78B-1-S109.html?v=C78B-1-S109_2015051220150512</a>	Y	2015	a court may excuse an individual from jury service upon showing the individual is a mother who is breastfeeding a child. The individual must make the showing by affidavit, sworn testimony, or other competent evidence.			
Vermont		N		May ask but not guaranteed		N	May ask but not guaranteed
Virginia	<a href="https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title8.01/chapter11/section8.01-341.1/">https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title8.01/chapter11/section8.01-341.1/</a>	Y	2005	provides that a mother who is breastfeeding a child may be exempted from jury duty upon her request.	<a href="https://www.everycrsreport.com/reports/RL32928.html#_Toc231698027">https://www.everycrsreport.com/reports/RL32928.html#_Toc231698027</a>	Y	Va. Code Ann. § 8.01-341(8) (2006) provides for an excuse from jury duty for "a person who has legal custody of and is necessarily and personally responsible for a child or children 16 years of age or younger...."
Washington		N		found proposed bill from 2020 but still wording is not supportive		N	May ask but not guaranteed
West Virginia							
Wisconsin							
Wyoming	<a href="https://wyoleg.gov/2007/Introduced/HB0105.pdf">https://wyoleg.gov/2007/Introduced/HB0105.pdf</a>	Maybe?	2006	Breastfeeding bill in 2007 (pending), but also might be covered in ->>	<a href="https://www.everycrsreport.com/reports/RL32928.html#_Toc231698027">https://www.everycrsreport.com/reports/RL32928.html#_Toc231698027</a>	Y	Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 1-11-104 (2006) provides that a person may be excused from jury duty when the care of that person's young children requires his absence.

# **HB1440 Senate Testimony.docx.pdf**

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Position: FAV



**TESTIMONY FOR HB 1440**  
**Courts – Parental Accommodations**  
**Position: Favorable**

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceeding Committee, We are proud to submit this testimony in strong support of HB 1440. Shore Progress (formerly the Lower Shore Progressive Caucus) is a nonpartisan civic organization covering the Eastern Shore of Maryland that advocates for policies that support working families and ensure that Maryland remains a leader in advancing economic and social justice.

Under current Maryland law, the vital work of parenting especially in the early years of a child's life is not sufficiently recognized as a legitimate reason to be excused from jury duty. As a result, many parents are forced to choose between fulfilling a civic obligation and providing essential care to their children. This creates an undue and unfair burden, particularly on mothers, who continue to shoulder the majority of caregiving responsibilities in our society.

Jury duty is a cornerstone of our justice system, but it was designed during an era that failed to account for the presence and contributions of women in public life. It presumes a level of flexibility that most caregivers simply do not have. A parent cannot reasonably be expected to serve on a jury for days or weeks while ensuring that an infant is fed or that a toddler receives constant supervision. This is not just inconvenient it is impossible, and the consequences for families can be significant, both emotionally and financially.

HB 1440 offers two straightforward but critical reforms. First, it requires that any circuit courthouse built or undergoing major renovation on or after October 1, 2025, include a private lactation room. This room would provide a safe, sanitary, and private space for nursing parents to pump or breastfeed. This is about more than comfort. It is about dignity, health, and public equity. Second, the bill expands the allowable reasons for excusal from jury duty to include breastfeeding mothers and caregivers of children under the age of three who require continuous care during court hours. This is a common-sense update that brings our justice system into closer alignment with the daily realities faced by Maryland families.

Other states have already moved in this direction. Twenty-two states including California, Connecticut, Illinois, and Virginia allow breastfeeding parents to be excused from jury service. States like California and Florida have enacted laws requiring public lactation rooms in courthouses. These are not radical changes; they are widely adopted best practices that center equity and compassion.

Maryland should join these states by passing HB 1440 and affirming our commitment to families, fairness, and inclusion in public service.

On behalf of Shore Progress, we urge a favorable report on HB 1440. Thank you for your time and consideration.



**hb1440-fav.pdf**

Uploaded by: Shore Progress

Position: FAV

MARCH 26, 2025



## HOUSE BILL 1440: COURTS - PARENTAL ACCOMMODATIONS

POSITION: FAVORABLE

### **Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, & Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee**

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Shore Progress is thankful for the opportunity to write in strong support of HB 1440, which will ensure Maryland's jury service system is more accessible and accommodating to nursing parents and caregivers of young children.

Our organization believes policies that uplift women and families, uplift our entire community. The civic duty of jury service has not accounted for the real-life responsibilities of parents - particularly breastfeeding mothers and primary caregivers of young children. The absence of adequate accommodations forces parents into impossible, and at times uncomfortable choices, to fulfill their obligation to the courts while prioritizing the essential care of their children.

HB 1440 makes two critical improvements. It mandates that newly built or renovated circuit courthouses provide private lactation rooms - ensuring that nursing parents have a safe and dignified space to care for their children. It also expands the allowable reasons for excusal from jury duty to include breastfeeding mothers and caregivers of young children under the age of four, aligning Maryland with the 22 states that have already taken similar action.

These solutions bring our state in line with best practices nationwide. More importantly, they send a clear message: Maryland values the contributions of parents and caregivers, and our justice system should not be a barrier to those fulfilling this essential role. We respectfully urge a favorable report on HB 1440. Thank you for your time and consideration.

**SHORE PROGRESS**

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