
To: Members of the House Judiciary Committee

From: Family Law Section Council (FLSC)

Date: February 24, 2026

Subject: House Bill 1144
Child Support – Adjusted Actual Income - Definition

Position: FAVORABLE

The Maryland State Bar Association (MSBA) FLSC **supports House Bill 1144**

This testimony is submitted on behalf of the Family Law Section Council (“FLSC”) of the Maryland State Bar Association (“MSBA”). The FLSC is the formal representative of the Family Law Section of the MSBA, which promotes the objectives of the MSBA by improving the administration of justice in the field of family law and, at the same time, tries to bring together the members of the MSBA who are concerned with family laws and in reforms and improvements in such laws through legislation or otherwise. The FLSC is charged with the general supervision and control of the affairs of the Section and authorized to act for the Section in any way in which the Section itself could act. The Section has over 1,100 attorney members.

Maryland, like most other states across the country, calculates child support orders based on an “income-shares” model, which considers parental income, the number of shared minor children, and several other factors such as alimony payments, health insurance costs, and extraordinary medical expenses when setting the rate of child support. See Maryland Family Law Code § 12-204. This model aims to ensure that children receive the same proportion of parental income as they would if the parents resided in the same household.

As a result of legislation passed last session, Maryland’s child support laws now adjust a parent’s income for the purpose of calculating child support based on whether they are supporting additional dependent children in their home. Now, the child support guidelines create an income deduction for these parents.

HB 1144 simply amends the statute so that the definition section which sets out the requirements for the allowance mirrors the definition in subsection (p) which defines the “shared physical custody adjustment” as was originally intended. With the passage of HB 1144, both

adjustments would occur if the child in question spends **more than 25% (at least 92 overnights)** in the parent’s home in a year. The current statute uses the language “more than 92 overnights” for the multi-family adjustment, but “at least 92 overnights” for the shared custody adjustment. HB 1144 will ensure that the multi-family adjustment is calculated fairly and accurately.

For the reason(s) stated above, the MSBA FLSC **supports House Bill 1144 and urges a favorable committee report.**

Should you have any questions, please contact Michelle Smith at 410-280-1700 or msmith@lawannapolis.com.