
By: Delegates Workman, Grosfeld, Hecht, Pitkin, Kagan, Kopp, Goldwater, McKee, Cadden, Perry, Love, and Kach

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 1996

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Family Law - Adoption Petitions - Consideration of Child Support**

3 FOR the purpose of allowing a court, in passing on a petition for adoption, to consider
4 any arrearages in child support obligations of the prospective adoptive parents.

5 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
6 Article - Family Law
7 Section 5-316
8 Annotated Code of Maryland
9 (1991 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

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

12 **Article - Family Law**

13 5-316.

14 In passing on a petition for adoption, a court:

15 (1) shall consider any assurance by the Social Services Administration that it
16 will provide funds for necessary support and maintenance for the child;[and]

17 (2) may consider the religious background, training, and beliefs of the
18 natural parents, the prospective adoptive parents, and the child to be adopted, but may
19 make a decision without considering the religious background, training, or beliefs of these
20 individuals if the court finds that the child does not have sufficient religious background,
21 training, or beliefs to be factors in the adoption; AND

22 (3) MAY CONSIDER ANY ARREARAGES IN THE CHILD SUPPORT
23 OBLIGATIONS OF THE PROSPECTIVE ADOPTIVE PARENTS.

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
25 October 1, 1996.