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**By: Senators Ruben, Forehand, Kelley, and Jimeno**

Introduced and read first time: January 23, 1996

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Family Law - Child Support**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring that an order awarding child support remain in effect until  
4 the child marries or attains a certain age; establishing a certain exception for an  
5 unmarried child who is enrolled in a certain educational program at certain  
6 secondary schools, colleges, or postsecondary schools; permitting a court to modify  
7 child support awards as circumstances require; and generally relating to child  
8 support awards.

9 BY adding to

10 Article - Family Law  
11 Section 12-101(d), (e), and (f)  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (1991 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

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

16 **Article - Family Law**

17 12-101.

18 (D) AN ORDER AWARDING CHILD SUPPORT SHALL CONTINUE TO BE IN  
19 EFFECT UNTIL THE FIRST TO OCCUR OF THE FOLLOWING EVENTS:

20 (1) THE CHILD RECEIVING THE SUPPORT MARRIES; OR

21 (2) THE CHILD RECEIVING THE SUPPORT ATTAINS THE AGE OF 18  
22 YEARS.

23 (E) NOTWITHSTANDING SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION, AN ORDER  
24 AWARDING CHILD SUPPORT TO AN UNMARRIED CHILD WHO IS ENROLLED IN AT  
25 LEAST 4 UNITS OF CREDIT IN A PROGRAM AT A SECONDARY SCHOOL, OR IN AN  
26 ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM AT AN ACCREDITED COLLEGE OR AN APPROVED  
27 VOCATIONAL, TECHNICAL, OR POSTSECONDARY SCHOOL AS DEFINED BY THE  
28 STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, SHALL CONTINUE TO BE IN EFFECT UNTIL  
29 THE FIRST TO OCCUR OF THE FOLLOWING EVENTS:

30 (1) THE CHILD RECEIVING THE SUPPORT MARRIES;

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1                   (2) THE CHILD RECEIVING THE SUPPORT GRADUATES FROM A  
2 SECONDARY SCHOOL OR COMPLETES THE TRAINING IN AN ALTERNATIVE  
3 PROGRAM AT AN ACCREDITED COLLEGE OR AN APPROVED VOCATIONAL,  
4 TECHNICAL, OR POSTSECONDARY SCHOOL AS DEFINED BY THE STATE  
5 SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS; OR

6                   (3) THE CHILD RECEIVING THE SUPPORT ATTAINS THE AGE OF 19  
7 YEARS.

8                   (F) THIS SECTION MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED TO PREVENT A COURT FROM  
9 MODIFYING A CHILD SUPPORT AWARD AS CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRE.

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