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By: **Delegates Finifter, Zirkin, Morhaim, and Montague**  
Introduced and read first time: February 10, 1999  
Assigned to: Judiciary

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2                                   **Family Law - Custody, Support, or Visitation Proceeding - Award of Costs**  
3                                   **and Counsel Fees**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing a court to award costs and counsel fees to a certain  
5 party who applies for a decree or modification of a decree concerning custody,  
6 support, or visitation of a child of one of the parties; and generally relating to the  
7 authority of the court to award costs and counsel fees in custody, support, or  
8 visitation proceedings.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
10 Article - Family Law  
11 Section 12-103(a)  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (1999 Replacement Volume)

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 12-103.

18 (a) The court may award to either party the costs and counsel fees that are  
19 just and proper under all the circumstances in any case in which a person:

20 (1) applies for a decree or modification of a decree concerning the  
21 custody, support, or visitation of a child of ONE OF the parties; or

22 (2) files any form of proceeding:

23 (i) to recover arrearages of child support;

24 (ii) to enforce a decree of child support; or

25 (iii) to enforce a decree of custody or visitation.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
2 October 1, 1999.