
By: **Delegate Montague**
Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2000
Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Family Law - Joint Legal Custody**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring a court in certain child custody proceedings to consider
4 an award of joint legal custody; requiring a court to make a certain written
5 finding or specific finding on the record if the court does not award joint legal
6 custody; providing for the application of this Act; and generally relating to child
7 custody.

8 BY adding to
9 Article - Family Law
10 Section 9-107
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (1999 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

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

15 **Article - Family Law**

16 9-107.

17 (A) IN AN INITIAL CHILD CUSTODY PROCEEDING, WHETHER PENDENTE LITE
18 OR PERMANENT, INVOLVING THE PARENTS OF A CHILD, THE COURT SHALL
19 CONSIDER AN AWARD OF JOINT LEGAL CUSTODY.

20 (B) IF THE COURT DOES NOT AWARD JOINT LEGAL CUSTODY, THE COURT
21 SHALL MAKE A WRITTEN FINDING OR SPECIFIC FINDING ON THE RECORD STATING
22 THE REASONS WHY THE COURT DID NOT AWARD JOINT LEGAL CUSTODY AND HOW
23 THE FINDING SERVES THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CHILD.

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall apply only
25 to cases filed on or after the effective date of this Act.

26 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
27 October 1, 2000.