

SENATE BILL 657

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2002 Regular Session
2lr2434
CF 2lr1348

By: **Senators Ruben, Forehand, Green, Jimeno, Kelley, Sfikas, Stone, and
Van Hollen**

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2002

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Family Law - Child Support - Age of Majority**

3 FOR the purpose of altering certain provisions of law defining the age of majority to
4 provide that a person who has attained the age of 18 and who is enrolled in
5 secondary school has a right to support and maintenance until the first of
6 certain events occur; establishing that this Act shall be considered a material
7 change in circumstances for purposes of modifying a child support order issued
8 before the effective date of this Act; and generally relating to child support.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

10 Article 1 - Rules of Interpretation

11 Section 24

12 Annotated Code of Maryland

13 (2001 Replacement Volume)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

15 Article - Family Law

16 Section 5-203(b)

17 Annotated Code of Maryland

18 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2001 Supplement)

19 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF

20 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

21 **Article 1 - Rules of Interpretation**

22 24.

23 (a) (1) Except as PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION OR AS
24 otherwise specifically provided by statute, a person eighteen years of age or more is
25 an adult for all purposes whatsoever and has the same legal capacity, rights, powers,
26 privileges, duties, liabilities, and responsibilities as prior to July 1, 1973, persons had

1 at twenty-one years of age, and the "age of majority" is hereby declared to be eighteen
2 years.

3 (2) A PERSON WHO HAS ATTAINED THE AGE OF 18 AND WHO IS
4 ENROLLED IN SECONDARY SCHOOL HAS THE RIGHT TO RECEIVE SUPPORT AND
5 MAINTENANCE FROM BOTH OF THE PERSON'S PARENTS UNTIL THE FIRST TO OCCUR
6 OF THE FOLLOWING EVENTS:

7 (I) THE PERSON DIES;

8 (II) THE PERSON MARRIES;

9 (III) THE PERSON IS EMANCIPATED;

10 (IV) THE PERSON GRADUATES FROM OR IS NO LONGER ENROLLED
11 IN SECONDARY SCHOOL; OR

12 (V) THE PERSON ATTAINS THE AGE OF 19 YEARS.

13 (b) (1) The terms "adult", "of full age", or "of legal age" refer to persons who
14 have attained the age of eighteen years.

15 (2) [The] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (A)(2) OF THIS SECTION,
16 THE term "minor", as it pertains to legal age and capacity, refers to persons who have
17 not attained the age of eighteen years.

18 **Article - Family Law**

19 5-203.

20 (b) The parents of a minor child, AS DEFINED IN ARTICLE 1, SECTION 24 OF
21 THE CODE:

22 (1) are jointly and severally responsible for the child's support, care,
23 nurture, welfare, and education; and

24 (2) have the same powers and duties in relation to the child.

25 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall be
26 considered to be a material change of circumstances for purposes of modifying a child
27 support order issued before the effective date of this Act.

28 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
29 October 1, 2002.