
By: **Delegates King, Murray, Barkley, Cardin, Feldman, Gordon, Gutierrez,
Heller, Kaiser, Ramirez, Simmons, Stern, and Taylor**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2003

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Family Law - Child Support - Termination**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the age at which the right to receive support and
4 maintenance terminates for a person who has attained the age of 18 years and
5 who is enrolled in secondary school; providing that this Act shall be considered a
6 material change of circumstances for purposes of modifying a child support
7 order issued before the effective date of this Act; and generally relating to child
8 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 and 2002 Supplement)

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

16 **Article 1 - Rules of Interpretation**

17 24.

18 (a) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection or as otherwise
19 specifically provided by statute, a person eighteen years of age or more is an adult for
20 all purposes whatsoever and has the same legal capacity, rights, powers, privileges,
21 duties, liabilities, and responsibilities as prior to July 1, 1973, persons had at
22 twenty-one years of age, and the "age of majority" is hereby declared to be eighteen
23 years.

24 (2) A person who has attained the age of 18 years and who is enrolled in
25 secondary school has the right to receive support and maintenance from both of the
26 person's parents until the first to occur of the following events:

27 (i) The person dies;

- 1 (ii) The person marries;
- 2 (iii) The person is emancipated;
- 3 (iv) The person graduates from or is no longer enrolled in secondary
4 school; or
- 5 (v) The person attains the age of [19] 21 years.

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

8 (2) Except as provided in subsection (a)(2) of this section, the term
9 "minor", as it pertains to legal age and capacity, refers to persons who have not
10 attained the age of eighteen years.

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

14 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
15 October 1, 2003.