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By: **Senators Brochin and Grosfeld**  
Introduced and read first time: January 16, 2006  
Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Family Law - Child Custody - Petition by Child to Change Custody**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the age at which a certain child may file a petition to  
4 change custody; and generally relating to child custody.

5 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
6 Article - Family Law  
7 Section 9-103  
8 Annotated Code of Maryland  
9 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

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

12 **Article - Family Law**

13 9-103.

14 (a) A child who is [16] 14 years old or older and who is subject to a custody  
15 order or decree may file a petition to change custody.

16 (b) A petitioner under this section may file the proceeding in the petitioner's  
17 own name and need not proceed by guardian or next friend.

18 (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this article, if a petitioner under  
19 this section petitions a court to amend a custody order or decree, the court:

20 (1) shall hold a hearing; and

21 (2) may amend the order or decree and place the child in the custody of  
22 the parent designated by the child.

23 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
24 October 1, 2006.