

# SENATE BILL 966

D4  
HB 132/05 – JUD

11r3027  
CF HB 1272

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By: **Senator Benson**  
Introduced and read first time: March 4, 2011  
Assigned to: Rules

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Family Law – Child Support – Age of Majority – Postsecondary Education**

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 years and who is enrolled  
5 full time in an institution of postsecondary education has a right to support and  
6 maintenance until the first of certain events occurs; defining a certain term;  
7 establishing that this Act shall be considered a material change in  
8 circumstances for purposes of modifying a child support order issued before the  
9 effective date of this Act; and generally relating to child support.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
11 Article 1 – Rules of Interpretation  
12 Section 24  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (2005 Replacement Volume and 2010 Supplement)

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

17 **Article 1 – Rules of Interpretation**

18 24.

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

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.  
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           (2) (I) IN THIS PARAGRAPH, “INSTITUTION OF  
2 POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION” MEANS A SCHOOL OR OTHER INSTITUTION THAT  
3 OFFERS AN EDUCATIONAL OR VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM FOR  
4 INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE AT LEAST 16 YEARS OLD AND WHO HAVE GRADUATED  
5 FROM OR LEFT ELEMENTARY OR SECONDARY SCHOOL.

6                       (II) A person who has attained the age of 18 years and who is  
7 enrolled in secondary school **OR ENROLLED FULL TIME IN AN INSTITUTION OF**  
8 **POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION** has the right to receive support and maintenance  
9 from both of the person’s parents until the first to occur of the following events:

10                       [(i)] 1. The person dies;

11                       [(ii)] 2. The person marries;

12                       [(iii)] 3. The person is emancipated;

13                       [(iv)] 4. The person graduates from or is no longer enrolled in  
14 secondary school **OR ENROLLED FULL TIME IN AN INSTITUTION OF**  
15 **POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION**; or

16                       [(v)] 5. The person attains the age of [19] **21** years.

17           (b) (1) The terms “adult”, “of full age”, or “of legal age” refer to persons  
18 who have attained the age of eighteen years.

19                       (2) Except as provided in subsection (a)(2) of this section, the term  
20 “minor”, as it pertains to legal age and capacity, refers to persons who have not  
21 attained the age of eighteen years.

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

25           SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
26 October 1, 2011.