

# SENATE BILL 319

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6lr2080  
CF HB 324

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By: Senator Muse

Introduced and read first time: January 22, 2026

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

### 2 **Family Law – Child Support – Assignment of Rights**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Child Support Administration to take action to secure  
4 an assignment to the State of any rights to support on behalf of a child receiving  
5 foster care maintenance payments under certain circumstances; requiring a court to  
6 terminate a child support order that was previously established or assigned for a  
7 child receiving a foster care maintenance payment under certain circumstances; and  
8 generally relating to child support.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

10 Article – Family Law

11 Section 5–501(a) and (b) and 12–104

12 Annotated Code of Maryland

13 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

14 BY adding to

15 Article – Family Law

16 Section 5–525.4 and 12–104.2

17 Annotated Code of Maryland

18 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

20 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

### 21 **Article – Family Law**

22 5–501.

23 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

24 (b) “Administration” means:

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(1) the Social Services Administration of the Department; or

(2) any other unit within the Department to which the Secretary of Human  
delegated in writing specified responsibilities of the Administration under this

5 5-525.4.

6 (A) ONLY IN LIMITED CIRCUMSTANCES, WHERE THE ADMINISTRATION  
7 FINDS IT APPROPRIATE, MAY ACTION BE TAKEN TO SECURE AN ASSIGNMENT TO THE  
8 STATE OF ANY RIGHTS TO SUPPORT ON BEHALF OF A CHILD RECEIVING FOSTER  
9 CARE MAINTENANCE PAYMENTS UNDER THIS PART III OF THIS SUBTITLE.

10 (B) THE ADMINISTRATION MAY TAKE ACTION, WHEN APPROPRIATE, TO  
11 DISCONTINUE AN ASSIGNMENT OF RIGHTS TO SUPPORT AND TERMINATE EXISTING  
12 SUPPORT ORDERS FOR A CHILD RECEIVING FOSTER CARE MAINTENANCE  
13 PAYMENTS.

14 (C) THE SECRETARY OF HUMAN SERVICES SHALL ADOPT RULES AND  
15 REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THIS SECTION.

16 12-104.

17 (a) The court may modify a child support award subsequent to the filing of a  
18 motion for modification and upon a showing of a material change of circumstance.

19 (b) The court may not retroactively modify a child support award prior to the date  
20 of the filing of the motion for modification.

21 (c) If a party becomes incarcerated, the court may determine that a material  
22 change of circumstance warranting a modification of child support has occurred, provided  
23 that the party's ability to pay child support is sufficiently reduced due to incarceration.

24 12-104.2.

25        THE COURT SHALL TERMINATE A CHILD SUPPORT ORDER THAT WAS  
26 PREVIOUSLY ESTABLISHED OR ASSIGNED FOR A CHILD RECEIVING A FOSTER CARE  
27 MAINTENANCE PAYMENT, WITHOUT A SHOWING OF A MATERIAL CHANGE OF  
28 CIRCUMSTANCE, ON THE FILING FOR A TERMINATION BY THE CHILD SUPPORT  
29 ADMINISTRATION, LOCAL OFFICE OF CHILD SUPPORT, OR LOCAL DEPARTMENT,  
30 AFTER THE SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION OR ITS DESIGNEE DETERMINES  
31 THAT THE ORDER IS NO LONGER APPROPRIATE.

1           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
2   October 1, 2026.