

# SENATE BILL 481

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CF HB 481

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By: **Senator McKay**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2026

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Family Law – Denial or Interference With Visitation Rights**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring, rather than authorizing, a court to order visitation to be  
4 rescheduled in a certain manner when the court finds that a party to a custody or  
5 visitation order has unjustifiably denied or interfered with visitation granted by the  
6 custody or visitation order; and generally relating to child custody and visitation.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
8 Article – Family Law  
9 Section 9–105  
10 Annotated Code of Maryland  
11 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

14 **Article – Family Law**

15 9–105.

16 In any custody or visitation proceeding, if the court determines that a party to a  
17 custody or visitation order has unjustifiably denied or interfered with visitation granted by  
18 a custody or visitation order, the court, **IN A MANNER CONSISTENT WITH THE BEST**  
19 **INTERESTS OF THE CHILD:**

20 **(1) SHALL ORDER ADDITIONAL PERIODS OF VISITATION TO BE**  
21 **SCHEDULED THAT ARE:**

22 **(I) OF THE SAME TYPE, INCLUDING WEEKEND, HOLIDAY, OR**  
23 **SUMMER VISITATION TIME, AS THE VISITATION THAT WAS DENIED OR INTERFERED**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 WITH, AND DOUBLE THE DURATION OF THE VISITATION THAT WAS DENIED OR  
2 INTERFERED WITH;

3 (II) AT A TIME THAT THE OTHER PARTY CHOOSES; AND

4 (III) WITHIN 2 YEARS AFTER THE COURT DETERMINATION THAT  
5 THE VISITATION HAD BEEN UNJUSTIFIABLY DENIED OR INTERFERED WITH; AND

6 (2) may, in addition to any other remedy available to the court [and in a  
7 manner consistent with the best interests of the child], take any or all of the following  
8 actions:

9 [(1) order that the visitation be rescheduled;

10 (2)] (I) modify the custody or visitation order to require additional terms  
11 or conditions designed to ensure future compliance with the order; or

12 [(3)] (II) assess costs or counsel fees against the party who has  
13 unjustifiably denied or interfered with visitation rights.

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