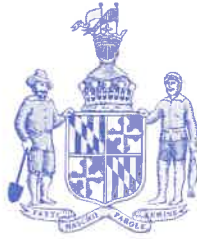


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January 30, 2020

To: The Honorable Luke Clippinger
Chair, Judiciary Committee

From: Hannibal G. Williams II Kemerer, Legislative Director, Office of the Attorney General

Re: HB 250 Family Law – Final Protective Order – Extension (SUPPORT)

House Bill 250 amends Section 4-507(a)(4)(ii) of the Family Law Article to ensure that if a motion to extend a final protective order is filed during the term of the underlying order, the order is automatically extended and shall remain in full force and effect until a hearing on the motion.

As illustrated by the Circuit Court for Queen Anne's County's June 24, 2019 decision in the case of *Buddle v. Dunn*, Case No. C-17-FM-19-000152, without a statutory change in the text of Section 4-507, courts will continue to deny timely requests for extension of protective orders if the hearings on such motions are not conducted prior to the expiry of the underlying protective order. This should not be the law in Maryland and HB 250 is a thoughtful and timely attempt to rectify this situation.

For all of the foregoing reasons, the Office of Attorney General supports HB 250 and urges a favorable report.

cc: Members of the Committee

