



FAMILY AND JUVENILE LAW SECTION COUNCIL TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 148

Family Law – Nonpayment of Child Support - Sentencing

January 23, 2020


This testimony is submitted on behalf of the Family and Juvenile Law Section Council (“FJLSC”) of the Maryland State Bar Association (“MSBA”). The FJLSC is the formal representative of the Family and Juvenile Law Section of the MSBA, which promotes the objectives of the MSBA by improving the administration of justice in the field of family and juvenile law and, at the same time, tries to bring together the members of the MSBA who are concerned with family and juvenile laws and in reforms and improvements in such laws through legislation or otherwise. The FJLSC is charged with the general supervision and control of the affairs of the Section and authorized to act for the Section in any way in which the Section itself could act. The Section has over 1,200 attorney members.

On behalf of the MSBA Family Juvenile Section Council, for the following reasons, we support HB148 and request a favorable report on HB148.

Under current law, a parent can be sentenced to up to three years of imprisonment and/or a fine not to exceed \$100.00 for willfully failing to pay child support. HB148 proposes to require the sentence to run concurrently with a sentence for any other conviction. This amendment to the current statute serves the need to have offenders appropriately punished for failure to pay child support while also returning them back to society and, hopefully, gainful employment. This approach serves the best interest of Maryland’s children.

The FJLSC urges the House Judicial Proceedings, for the reasons stated above, to issue a favorable report on HB148.

Respectfully submitted,


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Family and Juvenile Law Section Council
MSBA