

March 10, 2022

Testimony on House Bill 1293
Driver's License – Suspension for Child Support Arrearages - Exception
House Judiciary Committee

Position: Favorable

Maryland Nonprofits is a statewide association of more than 1400 nonprofit organizations and institutions. We urge you to support House Bill 1293.

Mobility is key in Maryland's regional economy. Nearly half of Marylanders travel outside of their county for employment and only 9% of jobs in the Baltimore region can be reached within one-hour, one-way by public transit.

A vehicle and a valid driver's license are thus necessary to obtain and sustain employment. When an individual misses two months of child support payments, their driver's license will be suspended regardless of their ability to pay. This directly jeopardizes access to employment for lower-income workers and complicates already tense relationships with families.

House Bill 1293 makes a limited exception to the suspension rule. The bill will eliminate driver's license suspensions as a penalty for child support obligors with incomes below 300% of the federal poverty line. By doing so it will actually help to facilitate the payment of child support – and the bill is supported by the MD Child Support Administration.

We urge you to give House Bill 1293 a favorable report.