SB 42.pdf Uploaded by: Eric Smith Position: FAV



Winning Strategies: Fatherhood, The Courts & Custody, Incorporated Baltimore, Maryland 21203 Telephone Number 443 – 768-8158 *501 C 3 Agency advocating, educating & empowering fathers for custody*

January 29, 2023

Testimony on behalf of Winning Strategies: Fatherhood, The Courts & Custody In Favor of Senate Bill 42 – Child Custody – Relocation of Child – Expedited Hearing (Assurance of Child's Safety Act) Before the Judicial Proceedings Committee On January 31, 2023

Mr. Chairman, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee:

Senate Bill 42 provides fathers with equity when it comes to acknowledging the fact of his importance in the life of the child(ren) when parents have a mutual respect towards each other and when there's no communication, but the father would like to be in the life of his child(ren).

This bill will address the kidnapping of a child(ren). Our nonprofit organization assist fathers when mothers are threatening to take the child(ren). This will limit the likelihood of a kidnapping by the mother.

When we assist fathers in the community appoint fathers in the right direction out the Best Interest of the Child missing. This bill has the potential to has the potential to enable fathers to care, love and have uninterrupted access the child(ren).

The only arguments against this bill would come from the special interests' groups and the organization that is for helping the mothers only.

Fathers need uninterrupted access to their children; did you not have that?

When it comes to data, in 2022 we helped 75 fathers came to us for assistance, when they had intake session 32% dealt with. However, 100% feels as though she needs to go to jail for kidnapping. We pray that this bill makes it through onto the next chapter of its political life.

As such, we urge the committee to give SB Bill 42.

Respectfully,

Eric D. Smith

Testimony of Franklyn Malone_SB42r1.pdf Uploaded by: franklyn malone

Position: FAV

Testimony of Franklyn M. Malone CEO, The 100 Fathers Inc. In Favor of SB42 – Child Custody – Relocation of Child – Expedited Hearing (Assurance of Childs Safety Act) Before the Judicial Proceedings Committee On January 31, 2023

Mr. Chairman, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee:

Senate Bill 42 proposes the requirement of a court to schedule a hearing on certain petition regard the relocation of a child who is the subject of a custody visitation order on an expedited basis under certain circumstances. This legislation also prohibits the court from considering a child's time spent with a party who relocated in violation of certain notice provisions to be advantageous to the party in a subsequent custody hearing; generally relating to child custody and visitation.

The latest research reveals that there is undeniable evidence that the presence of engaging and involved fathers in the lives of their children has a positive effect on that child's outcome. According to the National Fatherhood Initiative, 71% of young men are incarcerated, 69% of high school drop outs; 70% of youth in custody come from fatherless families and many wind up in the criminal justice system. Our objective clearly must be family focus and the child's best interest. All of these fatherless children captured in this research never had the benefit of a relationship with a father.

The 100 Fathers currently leads a national conversation on this relationship of fatherless children and its relationship to violence. For

my own experience as a father residing in Greenbelt, with a former wife who is now a friend, took my baby daughter to Chicago and left me high and dry. I suffered emotionally, psychologically, socially and financially until I was able to locate her some months later and file a court brief forcing the return of my daughter. No father or parent should be forced to suffer the indignity of a missing child whom they wish to parent and love. Ultimately, Senate Bill 42 closes this gap on fatherless children and improves the opportunity for parenting to be a team event that benefits the children. As such, the 100 Fathers Inc. urge this Committee give a favorable report on SB042. Thank you. Respectfully,

Franklyn M. Malone

CEO, The 100 Fathers Inc.

SB42.pdf Uploaded by: Ronald McLaughlin Position: FAV

SB42 Requiring a court to schedule a hearing on a certain petition regarding the proposed relocation of a child who is the subject of a custody or visitation order on an expedited basis under certain circumstances; and prohibiting a court from considering a child's time spent with a party who relocated in violation of certain notice provisions to be advantageous to that party in a subsequent custody hearing.

I am a father who has always provided for the health, education, and welfare for my children from birth until current day. My Children were taken from me prior to a court filing or an intervention, and I could not file for an Emergency custody hearing due to the laws on the books, The children were uprooted from a stable environment to somewhere I did even know there whereabouts, I did see my Children for Almost a year, I missed my sons first steps, his first words, and some of the most important times in my children's life.

Once the Court filing was initiated and the court intervention took place, a timeline had been established, and the time that they were with the other parent set the precedent for Primary Physical Custody, This was after the Children were taken from their home, moved to another County, my daughter withdrawn from her school and enrolled in another school. This established the precedent and also allowed Child Support to be back dated to the date of the filing causing massive arrearages and many miscalculations.

I think that SB42 will be a good starting point, for all Children involved in situations like this. Lets protect are Children and protect Both Parents,

PAS-Intervention statement on SB42 FAV.pdf Uploaded by: Yaakov aichenbaum

Position: FAV



To: Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee 1/26/2023

The amended version of SB42 states that:

The court shall consider a proposed relocation from a minor child's primary residence that would significantly interfere with the other parent's ability to maintain the predetermined parenting time schedule when deciding whether to grant an expedited hearing on a Motion for Modification of Custody.

Relocation can sometimes interfere with parenting time, can be a form of custodial interference and cause considerable harm to a child's relationship with a parent. This is all the more so when the relocating parent is attempting to alienate the child from the other parent.

The Maryland Judicial Conference expressed reservations last session that each circuit court has a differentiated case management plan that includes procedures for emergency relief and expedited case processing in family law actions. They also expressed that terms such as ""shall" limit judicial discretion and the court's ability to consider each child's unique facts and circumstances. The current amendment adequately addresses these concerns.

SB42 does not address the need for expedited hearings in cases where a parent already relocated without court permission Such relocation can set the stage for abduction and parental alienation. It is extremely important to expedite such cases to prevent the creation of a status quo that will prevent a child for enjoying the benefits of a relationship with the other parent. We would like to see this amended in to the bill as well, but nevertheless support SB42 as is. I urge the committee to give a favorable report on SB42. Thank you.

Yaakov Aichenbaum Baltimore, MD

PetitionSupportingRelocationOfChild(2022).pdf Uploaded by: Jill Carter

Position: FWA

By: Delegates Charles, Henson, R. Jones, Landis, Toles, and Turner Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2022 Assigned to: Judiciary Child Custody – Relocation of Child – Expedited Hearing

2/24/22

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	410671 8170	Vorequetersepul	423
Jerie Millen	C-K13-865-6188	o t	Yeg
Antonio Carter	443-766-0571	antonio carter 3380gmail.com	Yes
Rakvan Long	667-273-1133	Bakuan. 10hg 2021@ gmail.com	Yes
Victor Wave			Yes
TORUGA METas	1 202-940432	Tenya Muaskilla 7 Wanai Kin	URS.
FLAM	213 126610	0	yes
ryuntowars	667-646-9369		yes
Kagnun Fenne	a 445-850-8994	1	yes
Sronne Dau	a company of the second s	tunya muaskili 3 327 Ogmailiua	n Yes
alvonne MEG	xkill 202-940-	4327	Yes
al MEaski	1/202-940-43	27 1	YES
Star Johnson	443-246-136	Butter Kup 88 C	-mall. com VV-
Maleok (awson	410-358-4240		r Jes U
Johson Derk			425
Jon Ing	4162155784		yes

By: Delegates Charles, Henson, R. Jones, Landis, Toles, and Turner Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2022 Assigned to: Judiciary Child Custody – Relocation of Child – Expedited Hearing

2/24/22

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Lagie Agant	443-271-5498	1	Yes
Shead John	443-264-1344	7	Yes
Authony lang Peret	(410) 48-0053		VES
	443-636-1766		Ves
To PA	4434003	8]	VES
Strester Brown	443-400-1577	2	YES
Reginald Askins	443-630-6295		Yes
Resinald Duasta			4 65
	442-812-6572		Yes
DAVID BROWN	443 505 3224	abrown 13550 Ahro	call YES
Danarolas		4	Ves
Manique D)	17 1000	1-00	yes
Fusenefank	heg 493-319-	a eugene pintre	yes
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By: Delegates Charles, Henson, R. Jones, Landis, Toles, and Turner Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2022 Assigned to: Judiciary Child Custody – Dale and the Science

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ISAAC Nager	A10 484 4111	1 Sahme @UDITION, NET	yes
Daniel Askin	410 571 320 6801	NLA	yos yos
Diane Garhuiner	410 377-2484	NLA	zes
Victor Corbin	410 327-0494	NIA	Mas
B Brenver	901713-8569	NIA	yes
Sue Gummer	901-713-8549	NA	ner
Arley Landsman	1410-3714132	- NA	yes
Jggie Ester	410 764 2418	NA	yes
Ump Rugel	443-131-6842	M	
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Ethn Vapha	4.10 744 7587	NA	Mrs
Sever Wehrer	413 247-2910	NA	yes
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effory Dune	440-999-	·NA	12m
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By: **Delegates Charles, Henson, R. Jones, Landis, Toles, and Turner** Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2022

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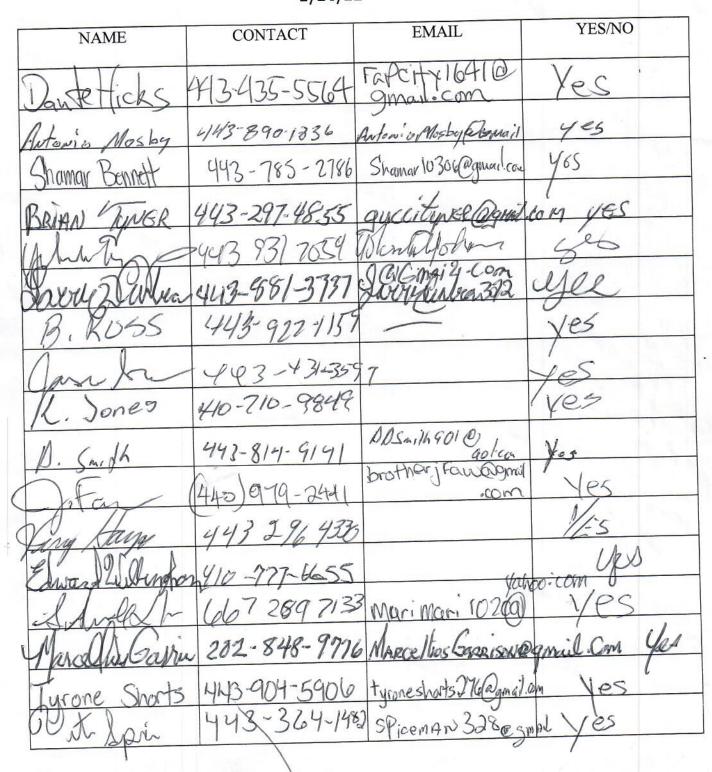
By: Delegates Charles, Henson, R. Jones, Landis, Toles, and Turner Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2022

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HARSH DAJENS (443)4082221		yes
AlviraBrown (413)599-2940		yes
Janana, Wiggil)	443-369-0415		Yes
Abn Wills		John Willes ag	suges go
Tony White		T White 320095	illes
Vernich elaphoren	240-278-8430	- 0	1/25
Da. el 10	1-1-13·226.9093		yes
Angel watkins	410-831-7344		tes
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By: Delegates Charles, Henson, R. Jones, Landis, Toles, and Turner Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2022 Assigned to: Judiciary Child Custody – Relocation of Child – Expedited Hearing

NAME	CONTACT	EMAIL	YES/NO
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Incensi's Brunson			Yes
Jaguaredica	1112-711-	57551	LES
h-priorf Sunt	443 695-8230		yes
ZRAAL GODHAN	143-523-618	(e	Y65
Belly famson	443-473-7327	bobby whiten 3320	YES
Mangler	443-866-928	markgesking BLOg.	103
Kotwan Clark	667-351-0480		Ves
Cumpic Green	443.465-3671		ips.
Carl	443-848-44	86	yes -
& Thomas	443-8546	898	465
Kernte	ton 443-860-	8026	Vez
JAMES MOORE	4493-800-	7929	Y65
John SWEAS	46-7-863-2	141	YES
Wilbert Lowery c	(201) 454-89	29	YES
adverale	410/762-861	13	Yes
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By: Delegates Charles, Henson, R. Jones, Landis, Toles, and Turner Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2022



By: Delegates Charles, Henson, R. Jones, Landis, Toles, and Turner Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2022 Assigned to: Judiciary Child Custody – Relocation of Child – Expedited Hearing 2/24/22

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Shelly Mioi	240 - 628 8714		Yes!
Joseph Astin	240- 11 8891	NA	
Manin Bedant	240 40(47645		yes
Warren Bill	MB-6352855	Willo coments	
Scott BRANK	3017481198		Amanl
Nick Cagginno		nick Laggian agmi	
Charles Carson	3013788776	,	yes
William Castraight	. 301 446 7191		~
Muril Conar	341-9060165	_	Yes
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By: Delegates Charles, Henson, R. Jones, Landis, Toles, and Turner Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2022 Assigned to: Judiciary Child Custody – Relocation of Child – Expedited Hearing 2/24/22

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NAME	CONTACT	EMAIL	YES/NO
D. Selle	1413 854-9957	7	No
L. asherry	667-379-4162		YES
13. John 0	443-859-53%		Yes
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Showntas Water	443-717-8786		Yes
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Samuel part	10-66.4 52 53		ves
Shendria Watsm	443-599-5047	Curebarbieogmail.cm	Typer
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talcon, Crisha	443-744-10000		7
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By: Delegates Charles, Henson, R. Jones, Landis, Toles, and Turner Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2022 Assigned to: Judiciary Child Custody – Relocation of Child – Expedited Hearing

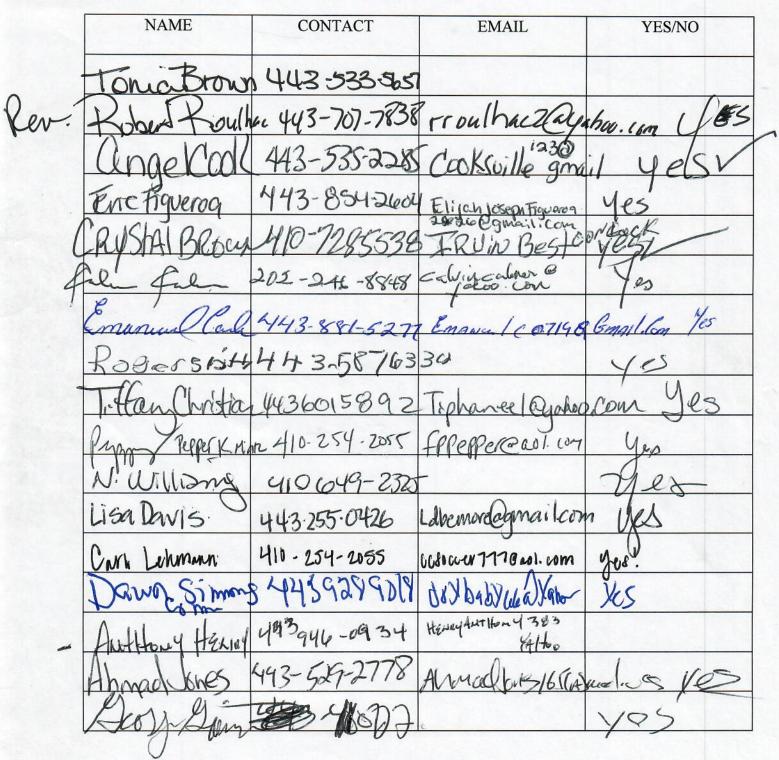
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WAME HUMPHER	143-722-7199	7	
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Timothy Goins	4.43-327-3498		
Dan Martha	(143-746-8323		
Michael tit	410-772-4971		
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By: **Delegates Charles, Henson, R. Jones, Landis, Toles, and Turner** Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2022

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By: Delegates Charles, Henson, R. Jones, Landis, Toles, and Turner Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2022



By: **Delegates Charles, Henson, R. Jones, Landis, Toles, and Turner** Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2022 Assigned to: Judiciary **Child Custody – Relocation of Child – Expedited Hearing**

2/24/22

NAME	CONTACT	EMAIL	YES/NO
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Piggy William	5 410 991 5884		Yes
Kule Seful	1		Yes.
ani Culuta	215/668-4635		1 es
BAVID DLAIR			Ve3
almentally	410)433-3111		125 Vac
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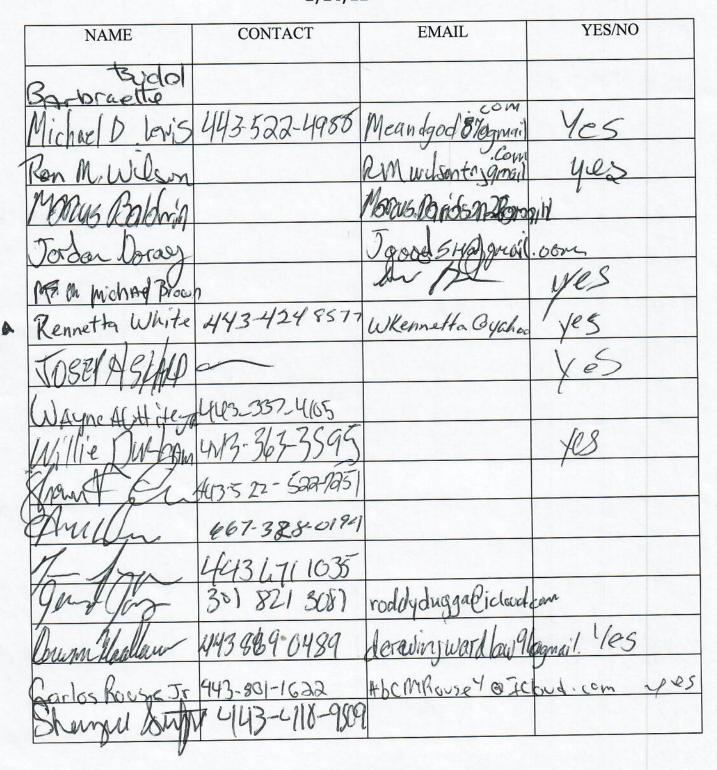
By: Delegates Charles, Henson, R. Jones, Landis, Toles, and Turner Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2022 Assigned to: Judiciary Child Custody – Relocation of Child – Expedited Hearing

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By: **Delegates Charles, Henson, R. Jones, Landis, Toles, and Turner** Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2022

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Bishields	N/A	NA	Ves
Taveon Atam	NIA	NA	Yes
D. Brown	NA	NA	Yes
D. Merrile		dmerricko828agua	il.com Yes
M. Nutter-EL		N/K	yes
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Holly Stevenson	443 932 8495	Hollystevenson	n 455.
Keven Cooper	NIA	NIA	YE5
James MCracker JR	· · · ~	N/A	ies
Marshino Winstead	-	N/K	Yes
ALFREDA MELES		NA	TES
Die Ress	410 255 5490	NA	YES
VINNY C.	443 392 6151	N/A	Yes
Brandon M.	443 858 6396		'yes
Donus M.	448 7070955	N.	(IEP

By: **Delegates Charles, Henson, R. Jones, Landis, Toles, and Turner** Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2022



By: **Delegates Charles, Henson, R. Jones, Landis, Toles, and Turner** Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2022

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By: **Delegates Charles, Henson, R. Jones, Landis, Toles, and Turner** Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2022

Assigned to: Judiciary Child Custody - Relocation of Child - Expedited Hearing

2/24/22

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B.J. Chambe	443-248-4537		yes
Ban prette Bill	3019157069	0	yes
Cardeza Mia	wey 443-883-92	90	Yes
Man Ward	443-463-884		153
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By: **Delegates Charles, Henson, R. Jones, Landis, Toles, and Turner** Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2022

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By: Delegates Charles, Henson, R. Jones, Landis, Toles, and Turner Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2022 Assigned to: Judiciary Child Custody - Relocation of Child - Expedited Hearing

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By: Delegates Charles, Henson, R. Jones, Landis, Toles, and Turner Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2022 Assigned to: Judiciary Child Custody – Relocation of Child – Expedited Hearing

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By: **Delegates Charles, Henson, R. Jones, Landis, Toles, and Turner** Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2022

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SB42Amendment.pdf Uploaded by: Jill Carter Position: FWA

4.

II. The court shall consider a proposed relocation from a minor child's primary residence that would significantly interfere with the other parent's ability to maintain the predetermined parenting time schedule when deciding whether to grant an expedited hearing on a Motion for Modification of Custody.

Strike subsection D, part 2

SenJillPCarter_SB42Testimony_FWA.pdf Uploaded by: Jill Carter

Position: FWA



Miller Senate Office Building 11 Bladen Street, Room 422 Annapolis, Maryland 21401 410-841-3697 · 301-858-3697 800-492-7122 *Ext.* 3697

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Testimony of Senator Jill P. Carter In Favor of SB42 with Amendments- Child Custody - Relocation of Child - Expedited Hearing (Assurance of Child's Safety Act) Before the Judicial Proceedings Committee on January 31, 2023

Mr. Chairman, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

Senate Bill 42, the Assurance of Child's Safety Act, corrects injustices in family law and protects children of divorced families from sudden upheaval. As amended, the law would require the court to consider a child's proposed relocation when deciding whether to grant an emergency hearing on a motion for Modification of Custody.

Initially sponsored by Delegate Nick Charles in 2022, the bill has undergone the following revisions in collaboration with the Maryland Bar Association and the Judiciary:

- 1. Amends the bill from only considering relocations over an arbitrary 40-mile mark to covering any move that would "significantly interfere with the predetermined parenting time schedule."
- 2. Mandates that the court consider a relocation when deciding whether to grant an emergency hearing while allowing the judiciary to exercise its best judgment in determining whether a hearing is necessary.

3. Removes the prohibition on courts considering the child's time spent with a relocated party advantages to that party. While we urge the court to grant a hearing *before* the move, all factors should be considered when deciding the child's best interest.

Parenthood is a sacred responsibility that should be protected by law. Unfortunately, this body has long ignored the crucial role *both* parents play in their child's development. While this bill is nowhere near an endall in preventing parental abduction, it will move us closer to repelling the belief that an individual's involvement shouldn't exceed their issuance of a monthly check.

Both parents should have the opportunity, and duty, to play a meaningful role in their child's life. By allowing one party to relocate the child in a way that prohibits the engagement of the other, we're promoting the separation of families. Break-ups between adults happen, but the split between a child and their parents should not.

The goal when deciding custody should be a mutual agreement between parties that establishes healthy co-parenting. However, when that does not happen or is violated, legal safeguards should be in place-- hence the rationale of this bill. Our goal is to require a court to consider these situations, not mandate their decision in favor of either parent.

Courts have often moved slowly in responding to a child's relocation, in some situations not hearing the case until 5 or 6 months later. Moreover, with very few laws protecting unmarried parents, upset parties have little reason to participate in co-parenting and accept the role of the other.

Senate Bill 42 is about putting the courts in the best position to determine the best interest of the child. Most importantly, however, this bill is about protecting a child's safety by encouraging stability in location and a consistent parenting schedule. The faster the courts respond to these petitions, the better the needs of these families can be met and resolved.

I implore the committee to give a favorable report to SB42 with amendments, moving us one step closer to recognizing the role of both parents.

Respectfully,

gill P. Carter

Senator Jill P. Carter, Esq.

SB 42 - FWA- Women's Law Center of MD.pdf Uploaded by: Laure Ruth

Position: FWA



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Senate Bill 42
Child Custody - Relocation of Child - Expedited Hearing (Assurance of Child's
Safety Act)
Judicial Proceedings
January 31, 2023
Support with Amendments.

Senate Bill 42 would create a path to an expedited hearing if a parent or custodian of a child was planning to relocate. The Women's Law Center of Maryland (WLC) supports SB 42 with amendments being offered by the sponsor. An expedited hearing for a situation where relocating the child will interfere with another parent's parenting time is valuable, and as amended this bill is a proper avenue for litigants to get court resolution on the issue of relocation if that relocation will interfere with one parent or custodian's ordered child access.

Under current law, under Family Law Section 9-106, in any custody or visitation proceeding, the court may include as a condition of a custody or visitation order a requirement that either party provide advance written notice of at least 90 days to the court and/or the other party of the intent to relocate the permanent residence of the party or the child either within or outside the State. Senate Bill 42 will therefore not flood the court with these expedited cases. Under SB 42, either party may file a Motion to Modify Custody and seek an expedited hearing. There are often valid reasons for relocation, such as escaping from domestic violence, moving to where there is a support system in place for the parent relocating, including family and childcare options, a better job, etc. We get calls about this issue often on our statewide Family Law Hotline. It is not in any way necessarily for a nefarious purpose of cutting off the other parent, but it can be.

The amendments for SB 42 are as follows:

- delete the proposed subsection (d) (2) in its entirety.
- revise proposed section 4 (II) to read:
 - (4) II. The court shall consider a proposed relocation from a minor child's primary residence that would significantly interfere with the other parent's ability to maintain the predetermined parenting time schedule when deciding whether to grant an expedited hearing on a Motion for Modification of Custody.

Each court in Maryland has a differentiated case management plan (DCM) that may have provisions for emergency or expedited hearings. However, they are not always provided to the public, and they do not all have any uniform standards for emergency or expedited hearings. This bill would require all of the circuit courts to consider relocation and whether to address it in an expedited manner based on the facts and circumstances of the particular parents and child. Senate Bill 42, as amended, would allow the court to consider relocation while maintaining the paramount concern of what is in the best interests of the child.

A survey of other state laws indicated that relocation is usually considered, collectively with other facts, in the best interests of the child analysis when deciding modifications of custody. See Ala. Code 1975, § 30-3-168(a). Ala. Code 1975, § 30-3-169.2(a) and (a)(3); Florida - F.S.A. § 61.13001; Missouri -



V.A.M.S. §452.377, La. R.S. §9:355.4 ("Failure to give notice is merely "a factor" that the trial court "may" consider in deciding the relocation issue. Jamie's failure to give statutory notice does not render the court's judgment in her favor erroneous in any way." Granados v. Granados, 339 So.3d 1281, 1290. (2022).

Therefore, the Women's Law Center of Maryland, Inc. urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 42 with amendments.

The Women's Law Center of Maryland is a private, non-profit, legal services organization that serves as a leading voice for justice and fairness for women.

SB 42_FJLSC_favwamend.pdf Uploaded by: Michelle Smith

Position: FWA



To: Members of The House Judiciary Committee

From: Family & Juvenile Law Section Council (FJLSC)

Date: January 31, 2023

Subject: Senate Bill 42: Child Custody – Relocation of Child – Expedited Hearing

Position: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

The Maryland State Bar Association (MSBA) FJLSC **urges a favorable with amendments** committee report on Senate Bill 42 Child Custody – Relocation of Child – Expedited Hearing

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.

The FJLSC understands the Sponsor intends to submit amendments to SB 42 to delete the proposed subsection (d) (2) in its entirety and to revise proposed section 4 (II) to read:

(4)

II. The court shall consider a proposed relocation from a minor child's primary residence that would significantly interfere with the other parent's ability to maintain the predetermined parenting time schedule when deciding whether to grant an expedited hearing on a Motion for Modification of Custody.

The FJLSC believes the amended SB 42 will provide an avenue to parents who have not received the required notice from the other parent that he/she intends to relocate the minor child or children and that relocation would significantly interfere with the other parent's custody schedule. We appreciate the urgency underlying many requests for expedited hearings in such cases. Such situations often require quick court intervention to prevent the relocating parent from establishing residency for the child in a different state and triggering a complicated analysis of the case under the Maryland Uniform



Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act. In addition, the relocating parent is often also making unilateral decisions about the minor child's education and medical care. In the most extreme situations, the minor child or children's lives are radically upended and the other parent is without any decision making power or recourse until he or she can obtain court intervention. He or she must file a Motion for Modification, accomplish service on the relocating parent in a far-away state, wait the 60 days that parent has to answer the summons and often several more months before the first court hearing.

SB 42 will add an additional option for parents to be granted an Expedited hearing in these child relocation cases. There is already a statute in the Family Law Article at 9-105 which informs the court of options for the unjustifiable denial or interference with "visitation" granted by a court that is often used to address some of the issues in relocation cases. If the child is in actual danger or risk of harm, the best path into family law court is to request an emergency custody hearing in conjunction with the filing of a Petition to modify custody and/or a Petition for Contempt.

In cases where imminent harm to the child cannot be proven, often, the best path into court to address the urgency created by some drastic relocation cases is through a request for an expedited *Pendente Lite* hearing on custody. Each Circuit Court of the 24 counties in Maryland has different standards and requirements for the granting of such emergency custody and/or expedited *Pendente Lite* custody hearings. SB 42 requires the Courts to consider granting Expedited Hearings on Motions for Modification of Custody wherein a relocation has significantly interfered with the other parent's parenting time which would be a positive change for Maryland families.

SB 42 will amend Family Law Article section 9-106 which grants the court the power to include a provision in a custody order issued by that court requiring either party provided advance written notice of a at least 90 days before relocating the permanent residence of the party or the child either within or outside the state. Thus, the expedited hearings the Court shall consider based on this change would only be triggered in those cases and would not overburden the Court system.

For the reason(s) stated above, the FJLSC urges a favorable committee report for SB 42 if the proposed Amendments are made.

Should you have any questions, please contact Michelle Smith by telephone at 410-280-1700 or by e-mail at <u>msmith@lawannapolis.com</u>.

sb42amend.pdf Uploaded by: Matthew Pipkin Position: UNF

MARYLAND JUDICIAL CONFERENCE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Hon. Matthew J. Fader Chief Justice 187 Harry S. Truman Parkway Annapolis, MD 21401

MEMORANDUM

TO:	Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
FROM:	Legislative Committee
	Suzanne D. Pelz, Esq.
	410-260-1523
RE:	Senate Bill 42
	Child Custody – Relocation of Child – Expedited Hearing
DATE:	January 18, 2023
	(1/31)
POSITION:	Oppose

The Maryland Judiciary opposes Senate Bill 42 in its current form. This bill requires a court to schedule a hearing on a certain petition regarding the proposed relocation of a child who is the subject of a custody or visitation order on an expedited basis under certain circumstances.

This bill would require the court to set a hearing on a petition regarding certain proposed relocations on an expedited basis. Each circuit court has a differentiated case management plan that includes procedures for emergency relief and expedited case processing in family law actions where there is a credible prospect of imminent and substantial physical or emotional charm to a child. Md. Rule 16-302. Whether expedited processing is warranted depends upon the facts alleged.

The bill also specifies factors a court "shall" or "may not" consider. In custody and visitation cases, the court's paramount concern is the best interest of a child. These types of mandates limit judicial discretion and the court's ability to consider each child's unique facts and circumstances.

The Judiciary is in receipt, however, of amendments (attached), that would address the above concerns. It is the Judiciary's understanding that the attached language would replace current section 9-106(a)(4)(ii) in the bill and also strike completely section 9-106(d)(2) in the bill. If these amendments are adopted, the Judiciary would withdraw its opposition to the bill and have no position.

cc. Hon. Jill Carter Judicial Council Legislative Committee Kelley O'Connor 4.

I. The court shall consider a proposed relocation from a minor child's primary residence that would significantly interfere with the other parent's ability to maintain the predetermined parenting time schedule when deciding whether to grant an expedited hearing on a Motion for Modification of Custody.

Strike subsection D, part 2