



Winning Strategies: Fatherhood, The Courts & Custody
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Malachi 4:6 – His preaching will turn the hearts of to their children, and the children to their fathers. Otherwise, I will come and strike the land with a curse.

February 28, 2023

The Maryland General Assembly
c/o Judiciary Committee
Room 101
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

AGAINST HOUSE BILL 1020 – SPONSOR DELEGATE MCCOMAS

Good Afternoon Chair, Vice -Chair & Members:

Since we could not be there to express our sincere discontentment with HB 1020 because it does not speak to giving fathers their rights to their children by using Legal Decision Making & Parenting Time. This bill, this session speaks to, as the sponsor says, “under certain circumstances”, therefore it is not clearly defined what circumstances. We have read bills that gave the impression it would help the – father/child relationship, as with this bill, HB1020. HB 1020 can be seen as “Begging The Question” for fathers to receive their rights ESPECIALLY if the case was founded on liable/slander.

We conducted research on this bill – Legal Decision Making & Parenting Time and found it to be a “word salad” in promoting fairness and it did not have any useful substance towards fathers, for instance:

1. HOUSE BILL 1328 (2020) – Material Change In Circumstances words used when its time to take the rights to the child from the father.
2. HOUSE BILL 505 (2021) – Gave an impression it was giving fairness to fathers did not offer a solid stance on what it would support.
3. HOUSE BILL 1168 (2022) – (Word Salad) Does not speak to a matrix used to determine if a parent can or cannot have access and why was that used in making that decision.
4. HOUSE BILL 1020 (2023) – Totally demeaning to fathers but more damage from recent years because the wording of the bill now is taking the wording to fortify a stance against fathers – domestic violence.

It is the position of this nonprofit organization, that assist fathers with establishing, fortifying and maintaining their rights to full uninterrupted access to their children, we ask that the committee votes UNFAVORABLE for HOUSE BILL 1020. On March 9, 2022 we opposed HB 1168 on February 28 we oppose HB1020

Sincerely,

Eric Smith for Winning Strategies: Fatherhood, The Courts & Custody

