

MARYLAND JUDICIAL CONFERENCE
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Hon. Matthew J. Fader
Chief Justice

187 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, MD 21401

MEMORANDUM

TO: House Judiciary Committee
FROM: Legislative Committee
Suzanne D. Pelz, Esq.
410-260-1523
RE: House Bill 435
Child Support – Incarcerated Obligor
DATE: January 31, 2024
(2/22)
POSITION: Support

The Maryland Judiciary supports House Bill 435. This bill would make changes to the law concerning child support as it relates to incarcerated obligors (the individual who is required to pay support under a court order) and parents.

Although the Judiciary has no position on the policy aims of the legislation, it supports the operational efficiencies created with this legislation. When a parent is incarcerated, their ability to contact a child support office or access legal assistance to seek modification of a child support obligation is limited. In addition, federal and state law bar retroactive modifications of support obligations, prior to the date of filing, so the court is currently limited in the discretion it can exercise once the order is in place.

cc. Hon. Luke Clippinger
Judicial Council
Legislative Committee
Kelley O'Connor