

KAREN SIMPSON
Legislative District 3
Frederick County

Judiciary Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Favorable HB 311 - Child Support - Suspension of Driver's Licenses

Hearing on 2/01/2024 at 2:00pm

To: Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Bartlett, and Fellow Members of the Judiciary Committee

The purpose of HB 311 - Child Support - Suspension of Driver's Licenses is to significantly reduce the number of inappropriate driver's license suspensions due to child support arrearage that jeopardize the care and welfare of the child or children involved.

A child's care and wellbeing heavily relies on a parent or guardian's financial stability and ability to earn income. When that ability is threatened, hindered, or impeded due to the suspension of their license, we no longer achieve our ultimate goal in serving the best interests of the child.

HB 311 establishes due process for the suspension of driver's licenses due to child support arrears by shifting the process to the courts.

This ensures that the license suspension is only used when appropriate and useful in serving the best interest of the child. Such as, if the court finds by clear and convincing evidence that the obligor has funds that are not accessible by garnishment or able to be intercepted, then the Child Support Enforcement Administration (CSEA) is permitted to notify the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to suspend the license.

Most income is able to be collected through other collection and enforcement mechanisms.

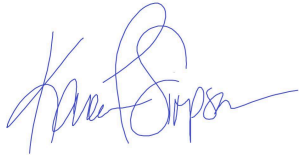
The process to reinstate a suspended driver's license is not only long and laborious, but also costly for the CSEA. In addition, many of these suspensions have led to the loss of jobs, income, and car insurance while **all of them have resulted in missed work time.**

HB 311 clarifies that suspensions are more likely profitable when the CSEA has clear and convincing evidence that the obligor has the financial means to pay the arrearage but is deliberately withholding payments. This helps the courts to determine and confirm the appropriateness of the suspension.

In conclusion, I strongly urge you to pass HB 311 to reduce the number of wrongfully suspended licenses and better serve the best interests of the child. Thank you for your time and consideration in supporting our Child Support Enforcement Administration and improving our system.

I ask for a favorable report of HB 311 - Child Support - Suspension of Driver's Licenses.

Respectfully Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Karen Simpson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Karen" and last name "Simpson" clearly distinguishable.

Delegate Karen Simpson
Legislative District 3 - Frederick County