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CIRCUIT COURT
JUDGE
BALTIMORE COUNTY
CHAIR

HON. RICHARD SANDY
CIRCUIT COURT
JUDGE
FREDERICK COUNTY
VICE-CHAIR



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MARYLAND JUDICIAL COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

MEMORANDUM

TO: House Judiciary Committee
FROM: Legislative Committee
Suzanne D. Pelz, Esq.
410-260-1523
RE: House Bill 681
Child Support – Driver's License Suspension for Arrearages and
Court Orders
DATE: January 25, 2025
(2/20)

INFORMATIONAL COMMENT PAPER

The Judiciary respects the separation of powers doctrine and acknowledges that the legislature is the policy-making branch. As such, the Judiciary has no position on the policy aims of this legislation and defers to the legislative branch on such matters.

The Judiciary writes only to provide information, if useful for the Committee's consideration. A significant number of individuals at risk of losing their license for nonpayment of child support are people who need that license in order to work the job that will permit payment of that child support order. Extending the time of nonpayment for a noncommercial license to be the same as the time for nonpayment of a commercial license provides these individuals with additional time to attempt a resolution with the Child Support Administration before their license can be suspended.

Adding an income-based exception to the conditions for license suspension further limits the number of low-income individuals who might lose their livelihood and ability to pay the support order if their license is suspended.

cc. Hon. Karen Toles
Judicial Council
Legislative Committee
Kelley O'Connor