



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

SPONSOR TESTIMONY

SENATE BILL 347: Child Support - Suspension of Driver's Licenses

Good afternoon, Chair Smith, Vice-Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

For the record, I am Senator Anthony Muse of the 26th District in Prince George's County, presenting Senate Bill 347 for your consideration. This bill updates Family Law 10-119, which governs the license suspension laws for nonpayment of child support, to define when it is and when it is not appropriate to suspend the driver's license.

Federal law requires that all States have laws to withhold, suspend, or restrict the licenses of individuals who owe child support in "appropriate cases."

- To this end, Maryland's Family Law §10-119 states that upon 120 days of nonpayment of child support, the Child Support Administration shall send notice to the Motor Vehicle Administration to have the obligor's license or privilege to drive suspended.
- However, Maryland law offers no clear guidance on whether suspending the obligor's license would be appropriate or whether it would increase compliance or sever it, in accordance with federal law.

Senate Bill 347 defines in statute when it is appropriate to take someone's driver's license for inability to pay and a list of several factors for when it is not.

With this update to the license suspension statute, I believe that the error rate in suspended licenses will be reduced and that the Child Support Administration will save time and money in pursuing obligors who are actively withholding money from their children. I urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 347.