



DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Gloria Brown Burnett, Interim Secretary

March 26, 2026

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr., Chair
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller, Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: TESTIMONY ON HB1144 - CHILD SUPPORT - ADJUSTED ACTUAL INCOME -
DEFINITION POSITION: INFORMATION**

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

The Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS) thanks the Committee for its consideration and the opportunity to provide information on House Bill 1144 (HB 1144) as passed by the House.

With offices in every one of Maryland’s jurisdictions, DHS provides preventative and supportive services, economic assistance, and meaningful connections to employment development and career opportunities to assist Marylanders in reaching their full potential. Our Child Support Administration (CSA) implements the child support program, which is affected by HB 1144.

Last year, Del. Crutchfield sponsored HB 275 (2025), which revised the definition of “adjusted actual income” under Maryland’s Child Support Guidelines (“Guidelines”) to establish the Multifamily Adjustment. When calculating a paying parent’s child support obligation, the Multifamily Adjustment allows a deduction from the parent’s income for each additional child living in the household for whom they owe a legal duty of support if the child(ren): (1) resides in the home at least 25% of the year; and (2) is not subject to the child support court order. HB 1144 would make a technical adjustment to the definition of “adjusted actual income” so that the Multifamily Adjustment is applied in a manner consistent with the Guidelines in a case that involves shared physical custody (Family Law, §§ [12-201](#) and [12-204](#)).

CSA supported HB 275 (2025) that created the Multifamily Adjustment, and HB 1144 improves upon last year's law. Frequently, one or both parents owe a duty of support to other children living in their home who are not subject to the current child support action. HB 1144 would further improve the Multifamily Adjustment to promote more equitable child support orders, resulting in more consistent support payments and a positive co-parenting environment.

As proposed in HB 275 (2025), the Multifamily Adjustment resulted from research and input from the Child Support Guidelines Advisory Committee that is coordinated and chaired by DHS. The committee was established as part of Maryland's quadrennial review of the Guidelines, which involves analyzing Maryland case data and how the Guidelines were applied when determining support orders. The goal of the Advisory Committee's quadrennial review is to ensure child support amounts determined under the Guidelines reflect the current cost of raising children and labor market conditions. The findings of the review are quantitative evidence supporting recommended changes to, or continued use of, the existing guidelines. The most recent quadrennial review report is available [here](#). For reference, Maryland's next quadrennial review of the child support Guidelines will occur mid-2026.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide information to the Committee for consideration during your deliberations. If you require additional information, please contact Justin Hayes, Acting Director of Government Affairs, at justin.hayes1@maryland.gov.

In service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gloria Brown Burnett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G".

Gloria Brown Burnett
Interim Secretary