

# **Delegate Charlotte Crutchfield HB 1144 Testimony.p**

Uploaded by: Charlotte Crutchfield

Position: FAV

CHARLOTTE A. CRUTCHFIELD, ESQ.  
Legislative District 19  
Montgomery County

Government, Labor, and  
Elections Committee

Subcommittees

Chair, Corrections

Local Government/Bi-County Agencies  
and Administration



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 26, 2026

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

**Re: House Bill 1144: Child Support-Adjusted Actual Income- Definition**

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Committee:

House Bill 1144 seeks to correct a small discrepancy that was created with the child support “multi-family allowance”, enacted in 2025. Specifically, the calculation for the number of overnights defined between the “shared physical custody adjustment” and the “multi-family allowance” is inconsistent. Although minor, it creates unnecessary confusion.

- **§12-201(p) “Shared physical custody adjustment” states:**

*“Shared physical custody adjustment” means the adjustment made to a theoretical adjusted basic child support obligation in shared physical custody case when a parent keeps the child or children overnight **for more than 25% (at least 92 overnights)**, but less than 30% (not more than 109 overnights), of the year.*

- **Whereas §12-201(c)(iii) – “multi-family allowance” states:**

*(iii) an allowance for support for each child living in a parent’s home to whom the parent owes a legal duty of support if the child is considered to be spending **more than 92 overnights** in the parent’s home in a year and not subject to the support order.*

To eliminate any confusion, both sections should be consistent and mirror each other. In other words, **§12-201(c)(iii) should read as follows:**

*(iii) an allowance for support each child living in a parent's home to whom the parent owes a legal duty of support if the child **or children spend overnight for more than 25% (at least 92 overnights)** considered to be spending more than 92 overnights in the parent's home in a year and **are** not subject to the support order.*

I respectfully request a favorable report for House Bill 1144.

Sincerely,

Delegate Charlotte Crutchfield

**2026 03 24, HB 1144\_FLSC\_FAV child support adjuste**

Uploaded by: Michelle Smith

Position: FAV

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**To:** Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

**From:** Family Law Section Council (FLSC)

**Date:** March 24, 2026

**Subject:** House Bill 1144  
Child Support – Adjusted Actual Income - Definition

**Position:** FAVORABLE

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The Maryland State Bar Association (MSBA) FLSC **supports House Bill 1144**

This testimony is submitted on behalf of the Family Law Section Council (“FLSC”) of the Maryland State Bar Association (“MSBA”). The FLSC is the formal representative of the Family Law Section of the MSBA, which promotes the objectives of the MSBA by improving the administration of justice in the field of family law and, at the same time, tries to bring together the members of the MSBA who are concerned with family laws and in reforms and improvements in such laws through legislation or otherwise. The FLSC is charged with the general supervision and control of the affairs of the Section and authorized to act for the Section in any way in which the Section itself could act. The Section has over 1,100 attorney members.

Maryland, like most other states across the country, calculates child support orders based on an “income-shares” model, which considers parental income, the number of shared minor children, and several other factors such as alimony payments, health insurance costs, and extraordinary medical expenses when setting the rate of child support. See Maryland Family Law Code § 12-204. This model aims to ensure that children receive the same proportion of parental income as they would if the parents resided in the same household.

As a result of legislation passed last session, Maryland’s child support laws now adjust a parent’s income for the purpose of calculating child support based on whether they are supporting additional dependent children in their home. Now, the child support guidelines create an income deduction for these parents.

HB 1144 simply amends the statute so that the definition section which sets out the requirements for the allowance mirrors the definition in subsection (p) which defines the “shared physical custody adjustment” as was originally intended. With the passage of HB 1144, both

adjustments would occur if the child in question spends **more than 25% (at least 92 overnights)** in the parent’s home in a year. The current statute uses the language “more than 92 overnights” for the multi-family adjustment, but “at least 92 overnights” for the shared custody adjustment. HB 1144 will ensure that the multi-family adjustment is calculated fairly and accurately.

For the reason(s) stated above, the MSBA FLSC **supports House Bill 1144 and urges a favorable committee report.**

Should you have any questions, please contact Michelle Smith at 410-280-1700 or [msmith@lawannapolis.com](mailto:msmith@lawannapolis.com).

**HB1144\_DHS\_INFO (JPR).pdf**

Uploaded by: Gloria Brown-Burnett

Position: INFO



**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](mailto: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