



DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Rafael López, Secretary

February 12, 2026

The Honorable J. Sandy Bartlett, Chair
House Judiciary Committee
101 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: TESTIMONY ON HB0412 - CHILD SUPPORT - DRIVER'S LICENSE SUSPENSION -
POSITION: INFORMATION**

Dear Chair Bartlett and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

The Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS) thanks the Committee for its consideration and the opportunity to provide information on House Bill 412 (HB 412).

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 Maryland's child support program, including the Driver's License Suspension (DLS) process affected by HB 412.

DHS understands the importance of maintaining driving privileges to parent employment and family stability. Upon passage of [House Bill 681](#) (2025), CSA implemented major equity changes to the DLS program without additional resources. In order to implement additional new changes to the DLS process proposed under HB 412, DHS would need to make information system updates, hire more child support specialists, and retain additional attorneys to support the local child support offices. Proposed changes to the DLS program in HB 412 threaten the efficacy of the recently-modified DLS program by shifting critical resources needed to monitor and correct implementation of the 2025 DLS law.

Significantly, HB 412 does not define the hierarchy, timeframe, or outcome of "successful" enforcement mechanisms. If passed, HB 412 would require CSA to exhaust other collection and enforcement measures as "unsuccessful" prior to referring the parent to the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA). Under current practice, CSA only

exercises additional enforcement mechanisms, including petitions for contempt, referring cases for federal prosecution, securing liens and levies against real estate or tax refunds, and garnishing bank accounts, *after* pursuing DLS — not before. HB 412 would require CSA to pursue these enhanced collection measures prior to seeking a license suspension. Further, it is unclear from the bill text how the sponsors would define the timing or outcome of an “unsuccessful” enforcement measure. For example, a tax refund intercept typically occurs only once a year, and the resources returned via this enforcement tool will, typically, fail to satisfy the parent’s full unpaid child support obligation, and their arrears will continue to accrue.

Next, HB 412 is silent on the definition of whether a parent “has the funds to pay” but chooses not to pay. Today, CSA relies on the court to determine parents are “voluntarily impoverished,” meaning that they have made the free and conscious choice to not have adequate resources to pay their child support obligation. Generally, a court makes such a determination after extensive discovery of financial and employment records. If the sponsors intend for CSA to assume this quasi-judicial role, HB 412 does not identify new resources to support the agency hiring and training staff, enhancing its information system capabilities, and subpoenaing noncomplaint parent records.

Lastly, CSA supports the goal of expanding electronic notice to parents, but HB 412 would create a loophole for noncustodial parents to avoid enforcement. The bill would require CSA to issue “written *and electronic* notifications” of the agency’s intention to refer them for license suspension before making a referral to the MVA. CSA is already working on information system updates to enable electronic notices when a parent is selected for DLS referral when their electronic contact information is available. However, CSA does not always have the necessary contact information for electronic notifications (i.e., a current email address or cell phone number). If HB 412 were to pass as drafted, CSA would be prohibited from referring most noncompliant parents for license suspension, as the bill language is not limited to cases where CSA already possesses electronic contact information for the parent.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide a letter of 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,



Rafael López
Secretary