

KAREN SIMPSON
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Judiciary Committee
Chair
Family Law Subcommittee



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Favorable HB412 - Child Support - Suspension of Driver's Licenses

TO: The Honorable Sandy Bartlett, Chair, and Members of the House Judiciary Committee

Hearing on 2/12/2026 at 1 PM

Thank you for your commitment to a child support system that works for the children it is intended to support.

The goal of HB412 – Child Support – Suspension of Driver’s Licenses is to ensure that our driver’s license suspension tool is only used when appropriate and necessary to serve the best interest of the child in compliance with Federal Code 42 U.S.C.A. § 666 (a16).

This bill was introduced in 2024 and 2025 to address the significant number of licenses suspended in error that led to the loss of jobs, income, car insurance, missed work, and negative impact of a child’s welfare. The bill was revised to reduce the fiscal note by utilizing the department’s existing processes.

In Summary, HB412 improves program effectiveness in the following ways:

Notification: HB412 will improve our system by ensuring the right to notification, including electronic notification, and the right to an investigation of circumstances that suspension of a driver’s license is not in the best interest of the child such as if the child is in the custody of the obligor. Please note, the department is already required to notify the obligor. The department is more likely to be successful in contacting obligors electronically. Obligor are less likely to lose access to their electronic address than physical address. The department should already have rules and processes in place for when an obligor does not have an address, whether a street or electronic address.

Defines Appropriateness: HB412 reinforces existing language in law. Specifically, the obligor “has made the free and conscious choice” is already in Family Law 12-201 and should not require any additional cost. The bill also adds two obvious reasons when suspending a driver’s license is not appropriate:

1. The child resides with the obligor, and
2. The obligor is paying their child support.

Federal Funding: Federal law requires states to have a license suspension program, and no state has lost

funding for making changes to their program. HB412 improves our driver's license suspension program. It keeps parents working and paying their support.

With these updates to the license suspension statute, I strongly believe that the error rate in suspended licenses will be reduced and that HB412 will provide the Child Support Administration additional time, energy and resources to pursue support for children.

I urge a favorable report on HB412.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Karen Simpson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Karen Simpson – District 3 - Frederick