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Legislative District 23
Prince George's County

Judiciary Committee

Subcommittees

Family and Juvenile Law

Public Safety



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB0142: Child Support - Earnings Withholdings Limits

Judiciary committee

February 5, 2026

Good afternoon, Chair Bartlett and committee members.

For the record, I am Delegate Kym Taylor, representing Prince George's County's District 23.

House Bill 142 proposes to cap wage garnishments at 25% for child support obligors earning less than \$40,000 per year—an income level that aligns with the federal poverty guideline.

The objective of this bill is to improve the ability of lower-income obligors to pay their support orders and remain in the workforce. This legislative proposal was the highlight of DHS's Omnibus Child Support Reform Bill last year, and this year, we are making it a standalone issue.

Under current statute, federal law caps wage garnishment at 25% of disposable income for most debts but permits garnishment of up to 65% for child support and alimony obligations. In practice, this standard creates severe financial strain. For example, after taxes and a 65% garnishment, a worker earning Maryland's minimum wage of \$15 per hour is left with approximately \$4.25 per hour, or about \$8,000 annually, to cover basic necessities such as housing, food, and clothing—an amount that is unsustainable.

This bill does not mandate child support orders; rather, it limits wage garnishments for obligors who meet the federal poverty income guidelines.

House Bill 142 amends existing law to ensure that obligors remain accountable for supporting their children while also maintaining stable employment in the formal economy.

I have an expert panel available to address any questions the committee may have, and I respectfully urge a favorable report.