

HOUSE BILL 424

D4

1lr1605

By: **Delegate Dumais**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2011

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Child Support – Age of Majority – Orders Issued Prior to 2002**

3 FOR the purpose of altering a certain provision of law to provide that a legislative
4 change to the age of majority for a certain purpose applies retroactively to a
5 child support order issued prior to a certain date; providing that this Act does
6 not revive certain child support obligations; making a stylistic change; and
7 generally relating to child support payments and the age of majority.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article 1 – Rules of Interpretation
10 Section 24(a)
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2005 Replacement Volume and 2010 Supplement)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
14 Chapter 180 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2002
15 Section 2

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
17 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

18 **Article 1 – Rules of Interpretation**

19 24.

20 (a) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection or as
21 otherwise specifically provided by statute, a person [eighteen] **18** years of age or more
22 is an adult for all purposes whatsoever and has the same legal capacity, rights,
23 powers, privileges, duties, liabilities, and responsibilities as prior to July 1, 1973,
24 persons had at [twenty-one] **21** years of age, and the “age of majority” is hereby
25 declared to be [eighteen] **18** years.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (2) A person who has attained the age of 18 years and who is enrolled
2 in secondary school has the right to receive support and maintenance from both of the
3 person's parents until the first to occur of the following events:

4 (i) The person dies;

5 (ii) The person marries;

6 (iii) The person is emancipated;

7 (iv) The person graduates from or is no longer enrolled in
8 secondary school; or

9 (v) The person attains the age of 19 years.

10 **Chapter 180 of the Acts of 2002**

11 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall be
12 [considered to be a material change of circumstances for purposes of modifying]
13 **CONSTRUED TO APPLY RETROACTIVELY AND SHALL BE APPLIED TO AND**
14 **INTERPRETED TO AFFECT** a child support order issued before the effective date of
15 this Act.

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act may not be
17 construed to revive a parent's obligation to support a child who attained the age of 18
18 years before the effective date of this Act.

19 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
20 October 1, 2011.