

HOUSE BILL 322

D3
HB 772/21 – JUD

2lr1392

By: **Delegate Lopez**

Introduced and read first time: January 19, 2022

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Courts – Judgments – Exemptions From Execution**

3 FOR the purpose of exempting up to a certain amount of money in certain accounts of a
4 judgment debtor from execution on the judgment without an election by the debtor
5 to exempt the money; establishing a certain limit on the cumulative value of property
6 and cash that may be exempted; requiring a writ of garnishment issued for certain
7 accounts to instruct the garnishee that it is to garnish only a certain amount; and
8 generally relating to exemptions from execution of a judgment.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings
11 Section 11–504
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

16 **Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

17 11–504.

18 (a) In this section, “value” means fair market value as of the date upon which the
19 execution or other judicial process becomes effective against the property of the debtor, or
20 the date of filing the petition under the federal Bankruptcy Code.

21 (b) The following items are exempt from execution on a judgment:

22 (1) Wearing apparel, books, tools, instruments, or appliances, in an amount
23 not to exceed \$5,000 in value necessary for the practice of any trade or profession except
24 those kept for sale, lease, or barter.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (2) Except as provided in subsection (i) of this section, money payable in
2 the event of sickness, accident, injury, or death of any person, including compensation for
3 loss of future earnings. This exemption includes but is not limited to money payable on
4 account of judgments, arbitrations, compromises, insurance, benefits, compensation, and
5 relief. Disability income benefits are not exempt if the judgment is for necessities contracted
6 for after the disability is incurred.

7 (3) Professionally prescribed health aids for the debtor or any dependent of
8 the debtor.

9 (4) The debtor's interest, not to exceed \$1,000 in value, in household
10 furnishings, household goods, wearing apparel, appliances, books, animals kept as pets,
11 and other items that are held primarily for the personal, family, or household use of the
12 debtor or any dependent of the debtor.

13 **(5) UP TO \$500 IN A DEPOSIT ACCOUNT OR OTHER ACCOUNT OF THE**
14 **DEBTOR HELD BY A BANK, CREDIT UNION, TRUST COMPANY, SAVINGS BANK, OR**
15 **SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION OR ANY OF THEIR AFFILIATES OR SUBSIDIARIES,**
16 **WITHOUT ELECTION OF THE DEBTOR.**

17 **[(5)] (6)** Cash or property of any kind equivalent in value to \$6,000 is
18 exempt, if within 30 days from the date of the attachment or the levy by the sheriff, the
19 debtor elects to exempt cash or selected items of property in an amount not to exceed a
20 cumulative value of \$6,000, **EXCEPT THAT THE CUMULATIVE VALUE OF CASH AND**
21 **PROPERTY EXEMPTED UNDER THIS ITEM AND ITEM (5) OF THIS SUBSECTION MAY**
22 **NOT EXCEED \$6,000.**

23 **[(6)] (7)** Money payable or paid in accordance with an agreement or court
24 order for child support.

25 **[(7)] (8)** Money payable or paid in accordance with an agreement or court
26 order for alimony to the same extent that wages are exempt from attachment under §
27 15-601.1(b)(1)(ii) or (2)(i) of the Commercial Law Article.

28 **[(8)] (9)** The debtor's beneficial interest in any trust property that is
29 immune from the claims of the debtor's creditors under § 14.5-511 of the Estates and Trusts
30 Article.

31 **[(9)] (10)** With respect to claims by a separate creditor of a husband or
32 wife, trust property that is immune from the claims of the separate creditors of the husband
33 or wife under § 14.5-511 of the Estates and Trusts Article.

34 (c) (1) **(I)** In order to determine whether the property listed in subsection
35 (b)(4) and **[(5)] (6)** of this section is subject to execution, the sheriff shall appraise the
36 property at the time of levy. The sheriff shall return the appraisal with the writ.

1 [(2)] (II) An appraisal made by the sheriff under this [subsection]
2 PARAGRAPH is subject to review by the court on motion of the debtor.

3 [(3)] (III) Procedures will be as prescribed by rules issued by the Court of
4 Appeals.

5 (2) A WRIT OF GARNISHMENT ISSUED FOR A DEPOSIT ACCOUNT OR
6 OTHER ACCOUNT HELD BY A BANK, CREDIT UNION, TRUST COMPANY, SAVINGS BANK,
7 OR SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION OR ANY OF THEIR AFFILIATES OR
8 SUBSIDIARIES SHALL INSTRUCT THE GARNISHEE THAT, SUBJECT TO ADDITIONAL
9 EXEMPTIONS, IT IS TO GARNISH ONLY THE AMOUNT EXCEEDING THE AMOUNT
10 EXEMPTED WITHOUT ELECTION OF THE DEBTOR.

11 (d) The debtor may not waive, by cognovit note or otherwise, the provisions of
12 subsections (b) and (h) of this section.

13 (e) The exemptions in this section do not apply to wage attachments.

14 (f) (1) (i) In addition to the exemptions provided in subsection (b) of this
15 section, and in other statutes of this State, in any proceeding under Title 11 of the United
16 States Code, entitled "Bankruptcy", any individual debtor domiciled in this State may
17 exempt the debtor's aggregate interest in:

18 1. Personal property, up to \$5,000; and

19 2. Subject to subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph:

20 A. Owner-occupied residential real property, including a
21 condominium unit or a manufactured home that has been converted to real property in
22 accordance with § 8B-201 of the Real Property Article; or

23 B. A cooperative housing corporation that owns property that
24 the debtor occupies as a residence.

25 (ii) The exemption allowed under subparagraph (i)2 of this
26 paragraph may not exceed the amount under 11 U.S.C. § 522(d)(1), adjusted in accordance
27 with 11 U.S.C. § 104, subject to the provisions of paragraphs (2) and (3) of this subsection.

28 (2) An individual may not claim the exemption under paragraph (1)(i)2 of
29 this subsection on a particular property if:

30 (i) The individual has claimed successfully the exemption on the
31 property within 8 years prior to the filing of the bankruptcy proceeding in which the
32 exemption under this subsection is claimed; or

1 (ii) The individual's spouse, child, child's spouse, parent, sibling,
2 grandparent, or grandchild has claimed successfully the exemption on the property within
3 8 years prior to the filing of the bankruptcy proceeding in which the exemption under this
4 subsection is claimed.

5 (3) The exemption under paragraph (1)(i)2 of this subsection may not be
6 claimed by both a husband and wife in the same bankruptcy proceeding.

7 (g) In any bankruptcy proceeding, a debtor is not entitled to the federal
8 exemptions provided by § 522(d) of the federal Bankruptcy Code.

9 (h) (1) In addition to the exemptions provided in subsections (b) and (f) of this
10 section and any other provisions of law, any money or other assets payable to a participant
11 or beneficiary from, or any interest of any participant or beneficiary in, a retirement plan
12 qualified under § 401(a), § 403(a), § 403(b), § 408, § 408A, § 414(d), or § 414(e) of the United
13 States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or § 409 (as in effect prior to January
14 1984) of the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended, shall be exempt
15 from any and all claims of the creditors of the beneficiary or participant, other than claims
16 by the Maryland Department of Health.

17 (2) Paragraph (1) of this subsection does not apply to:

18 (i) An alternate payee under a qualified domestic relations order, as
19 defined in § 414(p) of the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended;

20 (ii) A retirement plan, qualified under § 401(a) of the United States
21 Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, as a creditor of an individual retirement
22 account qualified under § 408 of the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as
23 amended; or

24 (iii) The assets of a bankruptcy case filed before January 1, 1988.

25 (3) The interest of an alternate payee in a plan described under paragraph
26 (1) of this subsection shall be exempt from any and all claims of any creditor of the alternate
27 payee, except claims by the Maryland Department of Health.

28 (4) If a contribution to a retirement plan described under paragraph (1) of
29 this subsection exceeds the amount deductible or, in the case of contribution under § 408A
30 of the Internal Revenue Code, the maximum contribution allowed under the applicable
31 provisions of the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, the portion of
32 that contribution that exceeds the amount deductible or, in the case of contribution under
33 § 408A of the Internal Revenue Code, the maximum contribution allowed, and any accrued
34 earnings on such a portion, are not exempt under paragraph (1) of this subsection.

35 (i) (1) In this subsection, "net recovery" means the sum of money to be
36 distributed to the debtor after deduction of attorney's fees, expenses, medical bills, and
37 satisfaction of any liens or subrogation claims arising out of the claims for personal injury,

1 including those arising under:

2 (i) The Medicare Secondary Payer Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1395y;

3 (ii) A program of the Maryland Department of Health for which a
4 right of subrogation exists under §§ 15–120 and 15–121.1 of the Health – General Article;

5 (iii) An employee benefit plan subject to the federal Employee
6 Retirement Income Security Act of 1974; or

7 (iv) A health insurance contract.

8 (2) Twenty–five percent of the net recovery by the debtor on a claim for
9 personal injury is subject to execution on a judgment for a child support arrearage.

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall be construed to
11 apply only prospectively and may not be applied or interpreted to have any effect on or
12 application to any writ of garnishment or writ of execution issued before the effective date
13 of this Act.

14 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
15 October 1, 2022.