
DATE: March 15, 2021

BILL NUMBER: HB 1339 **COMMITTEE:** Judiciary

BILL TITLE: Child Support – Guidelines

DHS POSITION: Support

PRESENTED BY: Kevin P. Guistwite, Executive Director, Child Support Administration
Department of Human Services

Thank you Chairman Clippinger, Vice Chair Atterbeary, and Members of the Committee. I am Kevin Guistwite, Executive Director for the Child Support Administration (CSA) within the Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS). Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 1339 (HB1339).

HB1339 extends the effective date of House Bill 946 (HB946) / Senate Bill 847 (SB847) from October 1, 2021 to July 1, 2022. Both HB946 and SB847 passed unanimously during the 2020 legislative session. Thank you to this committee for your support last year.

The Child Support Administration is transitioning from a legacy child support enforcement system (CSES) to a new cloud-based child support management system (CSMS). Due to the unexpected COVID-19 pandemic, the transition will not be completed as originally anticipated for all of Maryland's 24 jurisdictions before the October 1, 2021 effective date. The extension allows CSA to initiate and complete the roll out of the new CSMS beginning in Summer 2021.

By deferring to a July 1, 2022 implementation date this bill reduces costs, as well as limits risks of system testing and data integration errors. Failure to pass this bill would result in CSA expending approximately \$105,000 to update both the existing legacy system (CSES) in addition to the new CSMS. Additionally, risks are limited that would more likely to occur if we updated the legacy system at the same time as developing the new CSMS across a phased implementation approach. The increased cost as well as risks to data accuracy by updating two separate systems and to ensure compatibility across all 24 Maryland jurisdictions during a phased roll out of a new system is not advisable.

In summary, HB1339 is a technical amendment to extend the effective date of last year's legislation from October 1, 2021 to July 1, 2022.

For these reasons, I strongly urge a favorable report by the Committee.