
To: Members of The House Judiciary Committee

From: Family & Juvenile Law Section Council (FJLSC)
by Daniel Renart, Esquire and Ilene Glickman, Esquire

Date: February 18, 2021

Subject: **House Bill 930:**
Family Law – Removal of Child from Home - Meetings

Position: **SUPPORT**

The Maryland State Bar Association (MSBA) FJLSC **SUPPORTS House Bill 930 – Family Law- Removal of Child from Home - Meetings.**

This testimony is submitted on behalf of the Family and Juvenile Law Section Council (“FJLSC”) of the Maryland State Bar Association (“MSBA”). The FJLSC is the formal representative of the Family and Juvenile Law Section of the MSBA, which promotes the objectives of the MSBA by improving the administration of justice in the field of family and juvenile law and, at the same time, tries to bring together the members of the MSBA who are concerned with family and juvenile laws and in reforms and improvements in such laws through legislation or otherwise. The FJLSC is charged with the general supervision and control of the affairs of the Section and authorized to act for the Section in any way in which the Section itself could act. The Section has over 1,200 attorney members.

HB 930 seeks to lessen the effect of implicit biases on the part of decision makers in the child welfare system by requiring the redacting of certain information from the case file in cases in which removal of a child from the child’s home is at issue. The overrepresentation of African American families in the child welfare system and the racial disparities at various points in the child removal process have been well documented. The FJLSC recognizes that such requirements may cause the Department to create new procedures and may come with some procedural challenges; however, it is important to attempt to prevent professionals in the system from allowing their personal biases to effect their decision making process when considering the drastic step of removing a child from their home and family.

For the above reasons, the FJLSC urges the House Judiciary Committee to issue a favorable report on HB 930.



520 West Fayette St., Baltimore, MD 21201

410-685-7878 | 800-492-1964

fax 410-685-1016 | tdd 410-539-3186

msba.org

Should you have any questions, please contact Michelle Smith at msmith@lawannapolis.com or by telephone at (410) 280-1700 OR Ilene B. Glickman, Esquire by e-mail at ilene@lawhj.com or by telephone at (410) 591-9602.