

FJLSC LEGISLATIVE WRAP UP – 2015 MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION

**Bills in Bold – passed and go into effect October 1, 2015, unless otherwise stated. Click on bill link for final language, which may differ from the Synopsis.**

	Bill #	Bill Title/Link	Synopsis
		<b>CHILD SUPPORT</b>	
2015	HB163	Child Support-Adjusted Actual Income-Multifamily Adjustment <a href="http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/hb/hb0163T.pdf">http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/hb/hb0163T.pdf</a>	Altering the definition of "adjusted actual income" under the State child support guidelines; providing for the calculation of a specified allowance required to be deducted from adjusted actual income under the child support guidelines; requiring that the amount of a specified allowance be subtracted from a parent's actual income before the court determines the amount of a child support award; etc.
2015	HB924 SB272	Requirements for Filial Support-Repeal <a href="http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/hb/hb0924F.pdf">http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/hb/hb0924F.pdf</a>	Repealing the prohibition on the neglect or refusal, by a specified adult child, to provide a destitute parent with food, shelter, care, and clothing; altering the definition of "responsible relative", as it relates to responsibility for the cost of specified services provided in a facility or program operated or funded by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, to exclude from the definition the children of a recipient of specified services; etc.
2015	HB1192	Family Law - Child Support – Custody & Visitation Determinations <a href="http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/hb/hb1192F.pdf">http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/hb/hb1192F.pdf</a>	Requiring the court, in any case in which the court determines child support, to also consider custody and visitation of the child; and requiring the Child Support Enforcement Administration to refer the parties to the court for purposes of considering custody and visitation of the child when the Administration establishes a child support obligation.
<b>2015</b>	<b>HB1289 (SB941) (Cross- filed)</b>	<b>Maryland Uniform Interstate Family Support Act-Revision</b> <a href="http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/chapters_noln/Ch_308_hb1289T.pdf">http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/chapters_noln/Ch_308_hb1289T.pdf</a>  <b>*Effective July 1, 2015</b>	Revising the Maryland Uniform Interstate Family Support Act; identifying the Child Support Enforcement Administration as the support enforcement agency of the State; extending the application of specified provisions of the Maryland Uniform Interstate Family Support Act to include parties, pleadings, proceedings, and support orders of a foreign country; authorizing a tribunal of this State to exercise jurisdiction over a guardian or conservator under specified circumstances; etc.

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Prepared by: Lindsay Parvis, FJLSC Legislative Committee Co-Chair (Dragga, Hannon, Hessler & Wills, LLP, 111 Rockville Pike, #1120, Rockville, MD 20850, tel. 301-340-9090)  
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		<b>DOMESTIC VIOLENCE</b>	
2015	<b>SB315 (HB224) (Cross-filed)</b>	<b>Domestic Violence – 2-Year Protective Order</b> <a href="http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/chapters_noln/Ch_338_sb0315T.pdf">http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/chapters_noln/Ch_338_sb0315T.pdf</a>	Specifying that a court may issue a protective order for a period not to exceed 2 years by consent of the respondent under specified circumstances.
2015	<b>SB269 (HB225) (Cross-filed)</b>	<b>Domestic Violence – Additional Relief</b> <a href="http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/chapters_noln/Ch_335_sb0269T.pdf">http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/chapters_noln/Ch_335_sb0269T.pdf</a>	Expanding the relief that may be awarded in an interim protective order to include any other relief that a District Court commissioner determines is appropriate; and expanding the relief that may be awarded in a temporary protective order and a final protective order to include any other relief that a judge determines is appropriate.
2015	HB227	Domestic Violence – Definition of Abuse <a href="http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/hb/hb0227F.pdf">http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/hb/hb0227F.pdf</a>	Altering the definition of "abuse" for purposes of provisions of law relating to domestic violence to include harassment, trespass, and malicious destruction of property under specified provisions of law if the person eligible for relief has not resided with the respondent for at least 7 days before the filing of the petition.
2015	<b>HB263</b>	<b>Domestic Violence – Permanent Protective Orders-Conspiracy or Solicitation to Commit Murder</b> <a href="http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/chapters_noln/Ch_233_hb0263T.pdf">http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/chapters_noln/Ch_233_hb0263T.pdf</a>	Expanding the circumstances under which a court is required to issue a permanent final protective order to include the conviction of an individual for conspiracy or solicitation to commit murder under specified circumstances.
2015	<b>HB390 (SB270) (Cross-filed)</b>	<b>Protective &amp; Peace Order Petitions-Maryland Residents</b> <a href="http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/chapters_noln/Ch_418_hb0390E.pdf">http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/chapters_noln/Ch_418_hb0390E.pdf</a>	Authorizing the filing of a protective order petition if the abuse is alleged to have occurred in the State or if the person eligible for relief is a resident of the State; and authorizing the filing of a peace order petition if a specified act is alleged to have occurred in the State or if the petitioner is a resident of the State.
2015	HB503 SB78	Rape Survivor Family Protection Act <a href="http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/sb/sb0078F.pdf">http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/sb/sb0078F.pdf</a>	Excluding as a father of a child, for purposes of specified provisions relating to the paternity of a child in a guardianship or adoption proceeding, a man who has committed a specified sexual crime against the child's mother; requiring a court to consider a specified statement when making a specified

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			finding; prohibiting a court from requiring publication of specified information under specified circumstances; etc.
<b>2015</b>	<b>SB477 (HB606) (Cross- filed)</b>	<b>Domestic Violence-Persons Eligible for Relief</b> <a href="http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/chapters_noln/Ch_354_sb0477E.pdf">http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/chapters_noln/Ch_354_sb0477E.pdf</a>	Altering, for specified purposes relating to domestic violence, the definition of "person eligible for relief" to include an individual who has had a sexual relationship with the respondent.
2015	HB807 SB277	Family Law – Protective Orders – Additional Relief <a href="http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/sb/sb0277F.pdf">http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/sb/sb0277F.pdf</a>	Authorizing a judge in a final protective order to order the respondent to remain a specified distance away from the residence, place of employment, school, or temporary residence of a person eligible for relief.
2015	HB1186	Domestic Violence-Confidentiality Program-Name of Victim <a href="http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/hb/hb1186F.pdf">http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/hb/hb1186F.pdf</a>	Expanding the scope and purpose of the Address Confidentiality Program for victims of domestic violence to include making the legal names of domestic violence victims confidential under specified circumstances; altering the contents of an application for participation in the Program; authorizing a Program participant to make a request to any State or local agency to use a substitute name designated by the Program participant as the Program participant's name; etc.

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		<b>CINA</b>	
2015	HB6	Family Law-Unattended Child Under the Age of 3 Years <a href="http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/hb/hb0006F.pdf">http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/hb/hb0006F.pdf</a>	Prohibiting a person who is charged with the care of a child under the age of 3 years from allowing the child to be locked or confined in a dwelling, a building, an enclosure, or a motor vehicle out of the sight of the person charged unless the person charged with care provides a reliable person at least 15 years old to remain with the child to protect the child; provides a penalty not to exceed \$500 or imprisonment not to exceed 30 days, or both, for violations of the Act; and making the Act an emergency measure.
2015	HB7 SB12	Family Law-Child Abuse & Neglect-Expungement of Records-Time Period <a href="http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/sb/sb0012F.pdf">http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/sb/sb0012F.pdf</a>	Requiring a local department of social services to maintain certain reports of suspected abuse or neglect and all assessments and investigative findings for a certain purpose for certain periods of time; altering the time period after which a local department is required to expunge certain reports and records of suspected child abuse and neglect; and generally relating to reports of child abuse and neglect.
<b>2015</b>	<b>SB150 (HB171) (Cross- filed)</b>	<b>Courts-Child Abuse &amp; Neglect-Waiver of Reunification Efforts</b> <a href="http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/chapters_noln/Ch_326_sb0150T.pdf">http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/chapters_noln/Ch_326_sb0150T.pdf</a>	Altering the circumstances under which a local department of social services may ask the court in a child in need of assistance proceeding to find that reasonable reunification efforts are not required.
2015	HB347	Courts-Child Abuse & Neglect-Waiver of Reunification Efforts <a href="http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/hb/hb0347F.pdf">http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/hb/hb0347F.pdf</a>	Altering the circumstances under which a local department of social services may ask the court in a child in need of assistance proceeding to find that reasonable efforts to reunify the child with the child's parent or guardian are not required.
<b>2015</b>	<b>HB386</b>	<b>Child Abuse &amp; Neglect-Centralized Confidential Database</b> <a href="http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/chapters_noln/Ch_245_hb0386T.pdf">http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/chapters_noln/Ch_245_hb0386T.pdf</a>	Repealing provisions of law authorizing the Social Services Administration and each local department of Social Service to maintain a central registry of child abuse and neglect cases and substituting provisions authorizing a centralized confidential database; requiring each local department to enter and have access to information in the database related to reports, investigations, and assessments of suspected abuse or neglect; etc.

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2015	HB856 SB571	Child Abuse & Neglect-Failure to Report-Penalties & Training <a href="http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/hb/hb0856F.pdf">http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/hb/hb0856F.pdf</a>	Making it a civil offense, subject to specified penalties, for a specified person acting in a professional capacity to fail to report child abuse under specified circumstances; making it a misdemeanor, subject to specified penalties, for a specified person acting in a professional capacity to fail to report child abuse under specified circumstances; authorizing a police officer to issue a citation for a specified civil violation under the Act; etc.
2015	HB575 SB524	Family Law-Protecting Resources of Children in State Custody <a href="http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/sb/sb0524F.pdf">http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/sb/sb0524F.pdf</a>	Authorizing the Department of Human Resources to serve in a fiduciary capacity for children in its custody; requiring the Department, in any action, service, or decision on behalf of a child in its custody, to protect and serve the best interest of the child; prohibiting the Department from imposing a debt obligation on a child in its custody or taking any other action that requires the child to pay for the child's own care or custody; requiring the Department to take specified actions when serving as a representative payee; etc.
2015	HB725 SB668	Civil Actions-Child Sexual Abuse-Statute of Limitations <a href="http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/hb/hb0725F.pdf">http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/hb/hb0725F.pdf</a>	Extending from 7 to 20 years the statute of limitations in specified civil actions relating to child sexual abuse.
2015	HB780	Task Force on the Prevention of Child Abuse & Neglect <a href="http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/hb/hb0780T.pdf">http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/hb/hb0780T.pdf</a>	Establishing the Task Force on the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Task Force; requiring the Task Force to study and make recommendations regarding specified matters; requiring the Task Force to report to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before December 1, 2015; providing for the termination of the Act; etc.
2015	HB955	Child Protection-Reporting Requirements-Threat of Harm <a href="http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/hb/hb0955F.pdf">http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/hb/hb0955F.pdf</a>	Requiring a specified individual acting in a professional capacity to notify the local department of social services or the appropriate law enforcement agency if the individual has reason to believe that a verbal threat of a substantial risk of imminent harm to a child has been made; prohibiting a person from preventing or interfering with the making of a report under the Act; providing specified immunity to a person who

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			participates in specified activities relating to a report made under the Act; etc.
2015	HB1146 SB525	Child Abuse & Neglect-Failure to Report <a href="http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/sb/sb0525T.pdf">http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/sb/sb0525T.pdf</a>	Requiring an agency that is participating in a child abuse or neglect investigation and that has reasonable grounds to believe that a person has failed to report child abuse as required under a specified provision of law to file a specified complaint with a specified board, agency, institution, or facility.
		<b>JUVENILE</b>	
<b>2015</b>	<b>HB131 (SB87) (Cross-filed)</b>	<b>Criminal Procedure-Transfer to Juvenile Court-Petition for Expungement</b> <a href="http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/chapters_noln/Ch_69_hb0131T.pdf">http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/chapters_noln/Ch_69_hb0131T.pdf</a>	Requiring a petition for expungement of a criminal charge that has been transferred to the juvenile court to be filed in the court of original jurisdiction from which the order of transfer was entered.
<b>2015</b>	<b>SB685 (HB439) (Cross-filed)</b>	<b>Family Law-Information &amp; Services for Foster Children &amp; Former Foster Children</b> <a href="http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/chapters_noln/Ch_46_sb0685T.pdf">http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/chapters_noln/Ch_46_sb0685T.pdf</a>	Requiring the juvenile court to determine whether a local department made a reasonable effort, for a child at least 18 years of age, to enroll the child in health insurance that will continue after the child is emancipated, screen and assist the child with eligibility for public assistance, and ensure the child has stable housing for at least 12 months and sufficient income after emancipation; requiring a local department to advise a child before emancipation of the right to reenter care and procedures for reentering care; etc.
2015	HB586 SB476	Dept. of Juvenile Svcs.-Juvenile Court Jurisdiction-Feasibility of Repeal of Excluded Offenses <a href="http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/sb/sb0476F.pdf">http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/sb/sb0476F.pdf</a>	Requiring, by December 1, 2015, the Department of Juvenile Services to prepare and submit to the General Assembly a specified assessment of the feasibility of repealing specified provisions of law relating to offenses excluded from the jurisdiction of the juvenile court.
<b>2015</b>	<b>HB618 (SB172) (Cross-filed)</b>	<b>Juveniles-Transfer Determinations-Confinement in Juvenile Facilities</b> <a href="http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/chapters_noln/Ch_442_hb0618E.pdf">http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/chapters_noln/Ch_442_hb0618E.pdf</a>	Requiring a court exercising criminal jurisdiction in a case involving a child, or the District Court at a bail review or preliminary hearing involving a child, to order a specified child to be held in a secure juvenile facility pending a specified transfer determination except under specified circumstances.
2015	HB671	Task Force-Creation of Juv. Assessment Center <a href="http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/hb/hb0671F.pdf">http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/hb/hb0671F.pdf</a>	Establishing the Task Force on the Creation of a Juvenile Assessment Center and Constructive Alternatives to Managing Youth at Risk of Delinquency in Prince George's County;

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			providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving specified compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of specified expenses; requiring the Task Force to study, identify, and report on specified issues, hold specified meetings, and make specified recommendations; etc.
2015	HB1235	Courts-Juvenile Causes-Informal Adjustment <a href="http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/hb/hb1235F.pdf">http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/hb/hb1235F.pdf</a>	Authorizing a specified court to refer a specified matter to the Department of Juvenile Services for a specified informal adjustment under specified circumstances; prohibiting a specified court from referring a specified matter if there is an objection by a party; and requiring a specified petition to be dismissed under specified circumstances.
2015	SB856	Courts-Juvenile Causes-Informal Adjustment <a href="http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/sb/sb0856F.pdf">http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/sb/sb0856F.pdf</a>	Authorizing a specified court to refer a specified matter to the Department of Juvenile Services for a specified informal adjustment under specified circumstances; prohibiting a specified court from referring a specified matter if there is an objection by a party; and requiring a specified petition to be dismissed under specified circumstances.

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		<b>DIVORCE</b>	
<b>2015</b>	<b>SB472</b>	<b>Family Law-Grounds for Divorce-Mutual Consent</b> <a href="http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/chapters_noln/Ch_353_sb0472E.pdf">http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/chapters_noln/Ch_353_sb0472E.pdf</a>	Authorizing a court to decree an absolute divorce on the grounds of mutual consent if the parties have executed a written settlement agreement that resolves specified contested issues between the parties; and requiring the parties to jointly file a specified complaint and include a specified affidavit with the complaint in order to initiate proceedings for an absolute divorce on the grounds of mutual consent.
<b>2015</b>	<b>HB165</b>	<b>Family Law-Grounds for Limited Divorce</b> <a href="http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/chapters_noln/Ch_226_hb0165T.pdf">http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/chapters_noln/Ch_226_hb0165T.pdf</a>	Altering a specified ground for limited divorce by repealing a requirement that separation of the parties be voluntary and without a reasonable expectation of reconciliation; and repealing a specified condition precedent to granting a decree of limited divorce.
<b>2015</b>	<b>HB1185</b>	<b>Family Law-Application for Divorce-Residency Requirement</b> <a href="http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/chapters_noln/Ch_473_hb1185T.pdf">http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/chapters_noln/Ch_473_hb1185T.pdf</a>	Reducing from 1 year to 6 months the period of time, under specified circumstances, that a party to an application for divorce must reside in the State before the application may be filed.

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		<b>CUSTODY</b>	
2015	HB350	<p style="text-align: center;">Child Custody &amp; Visitation-Deployed Parents  <a href="http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/hb/hb0350F.pdf">http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/hb/hb0350F.pdf</a></p>	<p>Prohibiting a court, in any child custody or visitation proceeding, from making any negative inference regarding a parent's past, present, or future deployment; altering specified provisions relating to expedited hearings; authorizing a party or witness who is subject to deployment to provide testimony and present evidence by electronic means or by telephone under specified circumstances; authorizing a court to grant custody or visitation on behalf of a deployed parent to another individual under specified circumstances; etc.</p>
2015	HB577 SB402	<p style="text-align: center;">Family Law-De Facto Parent  <a href="http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/hb/hb0577F.pdf">http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/hb/hb0577F.pdf</a></p>	<p>Authorizing a court, on request of specified parties in specified judicial proceedings, to determine whether an individual is a de facto parent of a child; authorizing an individual asserting de facto parent status to intervene in or initiate a specified judicial proceeding; establishing that an individual who is judicially determined to be a de facto parent has specified duties, rights, and obligations; etc.</p>
2015	HB888 SB650	<p style="text-align: center;">Family Law-Rebuttable Presumption of Joint Custody  <a href="http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/sb/sb0650F.pdf">http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/sb/sb0650F.pdf</a></p>	<p>Creating a rebuttable presumption in specified court proceedings that specified custodial arrangements are in the best interests of a child; and authorizing the court to grant sole custody under specified circumstances.</p>
2015	HB1083 SB550	<p style="text-align: center;">Child Custody-Legal Decision Making &amp; Parenting Time  <a href="http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/sb/sb0550F.pdf">http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/sb/sb0550F.pdf</a></p>	<p>Repealing references to the terms "child custody" and "visitation" in specified instances and substituting the terms "legal decision making" and "parenting time" in specified instances; requiring the court, in determining the appropriate allocation of legal decision making or parenting time between the parties, to consider specified factors; authorizing the court to consider specified factors; specifying that specified factors are not relevant, except under specified circumstances; etc.</p>
2015	HB474	<p style="text-align: center;">Family Law-Grandparent Visitation  <a href="http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/hb/hb0474F.pdf">http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/hb/hb0474F.pdf</a></p>	<p>Altering the circumstances under which an equity court may grant visitation rights to a grandparent of a child.</p>

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		<b>PRACTICE RELATED</b>	
<b>2015</b>	<b>SB61 (HB50) (Cross- filed)</b>	<b>Active Armed Forces Member-Exemption from Payment of Fees for Certain Court Records</b> <a href="http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/chapters_noln/Ch_4_sb0061T.pdf">http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/chapters_noln/Ch_4_sb0061T.pdf</a>	Requiring a clerk of a court to provide without charge a copy of specified papers or records requested by an active armed forces member or by the United States government if the copy is to be used in connection with a claim of the member against the United States government; and requiring a clerk of a court to provide without charge a copy of specified marriage records of an active armed forces member that are requested under specified circumstances.
2015	SB317	Lawyers-Fees-Payment by Credit or Debit Card <a href="http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/sb/sb0317F.pdf">http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/sb/sb0317F.pdf</a>	Requiring the Court of Appeals to allow an applicant for admission to the Bar or a lawyer to use a credit or debit card to pay an examination fee or other fees required for admission to the Bar and any annual fee assessed against a lawyer; and authorizing the Court of Appeals to charge a processing fee for each credit or debit card payment not exceeding the actual cost incurred in processing the credit or debit card payment.
<b>2015</b>	<b>SB60 (HB48) (Cross- filed)</b>	<b>Clerks of the Circuit Courts-Collection of Appearance Fees</b> <a href="http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/chapters_noln/Ch_146_sb0060T.pdf">http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/chapters_noln/Ch_146_sb0060T.pdf</a>	Clarifying that if more than one stockholder, partner, member, or employee of a corporation, partnership, limited liability company, or other entity engaged in practicing law enters an appearance in an action or a case, the clerk of the circuit court may collect only one appearance fee per entity; and clarifying that, if more than one employee of a specified governmental entity enters an appearance in an action or a case, the clerk of the circuit court may collect only one appearance fee per governmental entity.
<b>2015</b>	<b>HB84</b>	<b>Annotated Code of Maryland-Captions and Catchlines-Interpretation</b> <a href="http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/chapters_noln/Ch_398_hb0084T.pdf">http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/chapters_noln/Ch_398_hb0084T.pdf</a>	Clarifying that a caption or catchline accompanying a section or subsection of law is to be interpreted in a specified manner unless otherwise provided by law.
<b>2015</b>	<b>HB164 (SB301) (Cross- filed)</b>	<b>Judgments-Appeals-Supersedeas Bond</b> <a href="http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/chapters_noln/Ch_225_hb0164E.pdf">http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/chapters_noln/Ch_225_hb0164E.pdf</a>	Limiting the amount of a supersedeas bond required to stay the enforcement of a judgment in a civil action; authorizing a court to reduce further the amount of a supersedeas bond; providing a procedure by which an appellee may seek discovery for the limited purpose of determining whether an appellant has dissipated or diverted assets under specified circumstances; authorizing a court to impose specified remedies and sanctions

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			if an appellant is found to have dissipated or diverted assets; etc.
2015	HB348 SB468	Civil Right to Counsel-Implementation <a href="http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/hb/hb0348F.pdf">http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/hb/hb0348F.pdf</a>	Requiring the Governor to include in the budget bill for each fiscal year a specified appropriation to provide legal representation to income-eligible parties in protective order proceedings; establishing a Judicare Pilot Program to provide legal representation to income-eligible parents in contested custody and visitation proceedings in specified jurisdictions; requiring the Governor to include in the budget bill for each fiscal year a specified appropriation to fund the pilot program; etc.
2015	HB461	District Court-Civil Jurisdiction-Amount in Controversy <a href="http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/hb/hb0461F.pdf">http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/hb/hb0461F.pdf</a>	Increasing from \$30,000 to \$50,000 the amount in controversy that determines the civil jurisdiction of the District Court in specified cases; and applying the Act prospectively.

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		<b>OTHER</b>	
2015	HB548	Circuit Court Judges-Election <a href="http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/hb/hb0548F.pdf">http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/hb/hb0548F.pdf</a>	Proposing an amendment to the Maryland Constitution relating to the selection and tenure of circuit court judges; altering the method of filling vacancies in the office of a judge of a circuit court; providing for retention elections following an appointment to fill a vacancy in the office of a judge of a circuit court; providing for a transitional period under which the terms of specified amendments are to become effective; submitting the amendment to the qualified voters of the State for their adoption or rejection; etc.
2015	SB679	Election of Court Judges-Nonpartisan General Elections <a href="http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/sb/sb0679F.pdf">http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/sb/sb0679F.pdf</a>	Establishing a method for the election of judges to the circuit court on a nonpartisan basis at a general election; providing that a candidate for election as judge of a circuit court may be nominated at a primary election; establishing a deadline for the filing of a certificate of candidacy for a candidate for election as a judge of the circuit court; deeming the office of judge of a circuit court vacant under specified circumstances and that the vacancy be filled in a specified manner; etc.
2015	SB847	Judges-Mandatory Retirement Age <a href="http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/sb/sb0847T.pdf">http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/sb/sb0847T.pdf</a>	Proposing amendments to the Maryland Constitution increasing to 73 from 70 years the mandatory retirement age for judges under specified circumstances; proposing an addition to the Maryland Constitution to provide for the application of specified amendments to the Maryland Constitution; submitting the amendment to the qualified voters of the State for their adoption or rejection; etc.
2015	HB81 SB445	Ethics Commission, Judicial Ethics Committee & Joint Ethics Committee-Duties <a href="http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/hb/hb0081T.pdf">http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/hb/hb0081T.pdf</a>	Providing that the Judicial Ethics Committee as an alternative to the Commission on Judicial Disabilities or another body designated by a specified court, shall administer and implement specified provisions of law that apply to State officials of the Judicial Branch; etc.
2015	HB582 SB367	Circuit Court Judges-Selection, Qualifications and Term of Office <a href="http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/hb/hb0582F.pdf">http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/hb/hb0582F.pdf</a>	Proposing an amendment to the Maryland Constitution repealing provisions relating to election of circuit court judges; requiring the Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to appoint a qualified person to fill a vacancy in the office of a judge of the circuit court; altering the term of office

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			of circuit court judges from 15 to 10 years; requiring the Governor to reappoint a circuit court judge, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, upon the expiration of the judge's term; etc.
2015	HB1071	Circuit Court Judges-Election, Qualifications and Term of Office <a href="http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/hb/hb1071F.pdf">http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/hb/hb1071F.pdf</a>	Proposing an amendment to the Maryland Constitution relating to the selection and tenure of circuit court judges; altering the method of filling vacancies in the office of a judge of a circuit court; providing for a retention election following an appointment to fill a vacancy in the office of a judge of a circuit court; altering the term of office of circuit court judges from 15 years to 10 years; etc.
<b>2015</b>	<b>HB346</b>	<b>Court Personnel-Altering References from Master to Magistrate</b> <a href="http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/chapters_noln/Ch_414_hb0346E.pdf">http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/chapters_noln/Ch_414_hb0346E.pdf</a>	Altering references to the term "master" to "magistrate" in specified provisions of law.

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		<b>ASSISTED REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGY</b>	
2015	HB220 SB273	Maryland Collaborative Reproduction Act <a href="http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/hb/hb0220F.pdf">http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/hb/hb0220F.pdf</a>	Establishing the Maryland Collaborative Reproduction Act; establishing the purposes of the Act; establishing rights and obligations of specified intended parents who use gamete or embryo donors to conceive a child through collaborative reproduction; establishing specified rights of a child conceived through collaborative reproduction; establishing that a gamete or an embryo donor is not a parent of a child conceived through collaborative reproduction under specified circumstances; etc.
		<b>GUARDIANSHIP</b>	
<b>2015</b>	<b>HB109</b>	<b>Guardianship of the Person-Disabled Persons-Attorney's Fees</b> <a href="http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/chapters_noln/Ch_400_hb0109T.pdf">http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/chapters_noln/Ch_400_hb0109T.pdf</a>	Authorizing a court to order payment of specified attorney's fees incurred in bringing a petition for the appointment of a guardian of the person of a disabled person under specified circumstances; requiring the court to consider specified factors before ordering the payment; requiring the court to deny a specified petition for specified attorney's fees under specified circumstances; prohibiting the court from awarding specified attorney's fees under specified circumstances; etc.
2015	HB293 SB90	Guardianship of Disabled Persons & Revocation of Advance Directives <a href="http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/sb/sb0090T.pdf">http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/sb/sb0090T.pdf</a>	Authorizing a court to appoint a guardian of the person of a disabled person for a limited period of time under specified circumstances; specifying that specified rights, duties, and powers that a court may order include the duty to file a specified report; authorizing a declarant to waive specified rights when making an advance directive; etc.
		<b>ADOPTION</b>	
2015	HB1125 SB208	Family Law-Rehoming of Adopted Children <a href="http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/sb/sb0208F.pdf">http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/sb/sb0208F.pdf</a>	Prohibiting a person from rehoming a child, committing specified acts related to rehoming a child, conspiring in the commission of specified acts related to rehoming a child, or acting as an accessory to the commission of specified acts related to rehoming a child; providing that the Act does not apply to the placement of a child by a licensed attorney, a child placement agency, or the State Department of Human Resources; and imposing a specified penalty not to exceed 5

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			years or a fine of \$10,000 or both if found guilty of violating the Act.
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