

SENATE BILL 171

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2003 Regular Session  
3lr0822

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By: **Senators Jacobs, Colburn, Greenip, Hooper, Kelley, Klausmeier, and Lawlah**

Introduced and read first time: January 27, 2003  
Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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Committee Report: Favorable  
Senate action: Adopted  
Read second time: February 25, 2003

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CHAPTER 70

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Family Law - Marriage Ceremonies - Solicitation**

3 FOR the purpose of repealing the prohibition against erecting or maintaining an  
4 information booth or advertisement that is intended to help solicit the  
5 performance of a marriage ceremony; repealing the penalties for a violation of  
6 the prohibition; and generally relating to marriage ceremonies.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
8 Article - Family Law  
9 Section 2-408  
10 Annotated Code of Maryland  
11 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement)

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

14 **Article - Family Law**

15 2-408.

16 (a) [(1)] An authorized official may not give or offer to give any reward to any  
17 person as an inducement to direct to the authorized official any individual who is  
18 contemplating marriage.

19 [(2)] A person may not erect or maintain any information booth or  
20 advertisement that is intended to help solicit the performance of any marriage  
21 ceremony.]

1 (b) [(1)] An authorized official who violates the provisions of subsection  
2 [(a)(1)] (A) of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to a  
3 fine not exceeding \$50 for each offense.

4 [(2)] A person who violates the provisions of subsection (a)(2) of this  
5 section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject:

6 (i) for the first offense, to a fine not exceeding \$100; and

7 (ii) for each subsequent offense, to a fine not exceeding \$500 or  
8 imprisonment not exceeding 1 year or both.]

9 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take  
10 effect October 1, 2003.