

# HOUSE BILL 774

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7lr1147

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By: **Delegates Impallaria, Boteler, Costa, Elmore, Kach, J. King, Kipke, McDonough, Shewell, Smigiel, and Sossi**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2007

Assigned to: Judiciary

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Family Law – Marriage – Definition and Benefits**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing that a certain benefit provider that provides a benefit  
4 plan to a married couple is not required to provide that benefit plan to a  
5 nonmarried couple and may establish different rates for a benefit plan for a  
6 married couple that differs from the rate for a benefit plan for a nonmarried  
7 couple; defining certain terms; and generally relating to marriage and marriage  
8 benefits.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
10 Article – Family Law  
11 Section 2–101  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (2006 Replacement Volume)

14 BY adding to  
15 Article – Family Law  
16 Section 2–201.1  
17 Annotated Code of Maryland  
18 (2006 Replacement Volume)

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

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **Article – Family Law**

2 2–101.

3 (a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

4 (b) “Authorized official” means an individual authorized by the laws of this  
5 State to perform a marriage ceremony.

6 (c) “Clerk” means a clerk of the circuit court for a county.

7 (d) “License” means a license to marry issued in this State.

8 **(E) (1) “MARRIAGE” MEANS A LIFETIME COMMITMENT BETWEEN A**  
9 **MAN AND A WOMAN.**10 **(2) A MARRIAGE CANNOT BE INTENDED WITHOUT BOTH PARTIES**  
11 **HAVING THE INTENTION OF A LIFETIME COMMITMENT TO EACH OTHER.**12 **2–201.1.**13 **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION, “BENEFIT PROVIDER” MEANS ANY PERSON**  
14 **THAT PROVIDES A BENEFIT PLAN TO AN INDIVIDUAL.**15 **(2) “BENEFIT PROVIDER” INCLUDES:**16 **(I) AN INSURANCE PROVIDER; AND**17 **(II) AN EMPLOYER.**18 **(B) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW, A BENEFIT**  
19 **PROVIDER THAT PROVIDES A BENEFIT PLAN TO A MARRIED COUPLE:**20 **(1) IS NOT REQUIRED TO PROVIDE THAT BENEFIT PLAN TO A**  
21 **NONMARRIED COUPLE; AND**22 **(2) MAY ESTABLISH A RATE FOR A BENEFIT PLAN FOR A MARRIED**  
23 **COUPLE THAT DIFFERS FROM THE RATE FOR A BENEFIT PLAN FOR A**  
24 **NONMARRIED COUPLE.**

1           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
2   October 1, 2007.