

Chapter 473

**(House Bill 1185)**

AN ACT concerning

**Family Law – Application for Divorce – Residency Requirement**

FOR the purpose of reducing the period of time, under certain circumstances, that a party to an application for divorce must reside in the State before the application may be filed; and generally relating to applications for divorce.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
Article – Family Law  
Section 7–101(a)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2012 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

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

**Article – Family Law**

7–101.

(a) If the grounds for the divorce occurred outside of this State, a party may not apply for a divorce unless **[1] ONE** of the parties has resided in this State for at least **[1 year] 6 MONTHS** before the application is filed.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2015.

**Approved by the Governor, May 12, 2015.**