

# HOUSE BILL 274

D4

6lr0972  
CF 6lr1298

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By: **Delegate Dumais**

Introduced and read first time: January 25, 2016

Assigned to: Judiciary

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Family Law – Divorce – Corroboration of Testimony**

3 FOR the purpose of repealing a provision prohibiting a court from entering a decree of  
4 divorce on the uncorroborated testimony of the party seeking the divorce; repealing  
5 a provision specifying that, in a suit for absolute divorce on the grounds of voluntary  
6 separation, a separation agreement is full corroboration of the plaintiff's testimony  
7 that the separation was voluntary under certain circumstances; and generally  
8 relating to divorce.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
10 Article – Family Law  
11 Section 7–101  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

14 BY repealing  
15 Article – Family Law  
16 Section 8–104  
17 Annotated Code of Maryland  
18 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

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

21 **Article – Family Law**

22 7–101.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1            [(a) If the grounds for the divorce occurred outside of this State, a party may not  
2 apply for a divorce unless one of the parties has resided in this State for at least 6 months  
3 before the application is filed.

4            [(b) A court may not enter a decree of divorce on the uncorroborated testimony of  
5 the party who is seeking the divorce.]

6 [8-104.

7            In a suit for absolute divorce on the grounds of voluntary separation, a separation  
8 agreement is full corroboration of the plaintiff's testimony that the separation was  
9 voluntary if the agreement:

10            (1) states that the spouses voluntarily agreed to separate; and

11            (2) is executed under oath before the application for divorce is filed.]

12            SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
13 October 1, 2016.