## **HOUSE BILL 274**

**D**4 6lr0972 CF 6lr1298 By: Delegate Dumais Introduced and read first time: January 25, 2016 Assigned to: Judiciary Committee Report: Favorable House action: Adopted Read second time: March 1, 2016 CHAPTER AN ACT concerning Family Law – Divorce – Corroboration of Testimony FOR the purpose of repealing a provision prohibiting a court from entering a decree of divorce on the uncorroborated testimony of the party seeking the divorce; repealing a provision specifying that, in a suit for absolute divorce on the grounds of voluntary separation, a separation agreement is full corroboration of the plaintiff's testimony that the separation was voluntary under certain circumstances; and generally relating to divorce. BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments, Article - Family Law Section 7–101 Annotated Code of Maryland (2012 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement) BY repealing Article – Family Law Section 8-104 Annotated Code of Maryland (2012 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement) SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows: Article - Family Law

## EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

<u>Underlining</u> indicates amendments to bill.

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Strike out indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1	7–101.
2 3 4	[(a)] If the grounds for the divorce occurred outside of this State, a party may not apply for a divorce unless one of the parties has resided in this State for at least 6 months before the application is filed.
5 6	[(b) A court may not enter a decree of divorce on the uncorroborated testimony of the party who is seeking the divorce.]
7	[8–104.
8 9 10	In a suit for absolute divorce on the grounds of voluntary separation, a separation agreement is full corroboration of the plaintiff's testimony that the separation was voluntary if the agreement:
11	(1) states that the spouses voluntarily agreed to separate; and
12	(2) is executed under oath before the application for divorce is filed.]
13 14	SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2016.
	Approved:
	Governor.
	Speaker of the House of Delegates.
	President of the Senate.