

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2016 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 832
Judiciary

(Cecil County Delegation)

Judicial Proceedings

Cecil County - Marriage Licenses - Applications

This bill repeals a requirement that in Cecil County, both parties must appear together before a clerk of the circuit court to apply for a marriage license.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not materially impact the workload of the Judiciary.

Local Effect: The bill does not materially impact the workload of the Cecil County Circuit Court.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Marriage licenses must be issued by a clerk of the circuit court for the county in which the marriage is to take place. An individual may not marry in this State without a license, which is valid only for six months from the effective date and time stated on the license and in the county in which it is issued.

Unless the parties to be married are not residents of the county where the marriage ceremony is to be performed, one of the parties to be married must (1) appear before the clerk and give specified information under oath, which is placed on an application form by the clerk and (2) sign the application form. In Cecil County only, both parties must appear together to apply for the license. If the parties are nonresidents, the clerk must accept an affidavit that contains the information required on the application form and that is sworn

to under oath before a clerk or other comparable official in the county, state, province, or country where the party resides.

The clerk for the county in which a marriage ceremony is to be performed may issue and deliver a license at the time the application is made or deliver the license personally or by mail to either of the parties to be married or any person authorized in writing by either party to accept delivery.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 715 (Cecil County Senators) - Judicial Proceedings.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 1, 2016
mel/kdm

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