

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2017 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Third Reader

House Bill 799  
Judiciary

(Delegate Atterbeary, *et al.*)

Judicial Proceedings

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Family Law - Marriage - Age Requirements

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This bill repeals provisions authorizing individuals ages 15, 16, or 17 to marry under specified circumstances and establishes that individuals younger than age 18 may not marry.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** Any minimal decrease in marriage license fee revenues does not materially impact State finances. Expenditures are not materially affected.

**Local Effect:** Any minimal decrease in marriage license fee revenues does not materially impact local finances. Expenditures are not materially affected.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** An individual younger than age 15 may not marry. An individual age 16 or 17 may not marry unless (1) the individual has the consent of a parent or guardian, and the parent or guardian swears the individual is at least age 16 or (2) if the individual does not have consent, either party to be married presents the clerk of the circuit court a certificate from a licensed physician or physician assistant or certified nurse practitioner stating that an examination of the woman to be married demonstrates that she is pregnant or has given birth to a child. An individual who is age 15 may not marry without consent of a parent or guardian and a certificate from a medical professional, as specified above.

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## **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** HB 911 of 2016 passed the House as amended and received a hearing in the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, but no further action was taken.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Montgomery and Worcester counties; Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 21, 2017  
fn/kdm Third Reader - March 21, 2017

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