

## Chapter 526

**(Senate Bill 102)**

AN ACT concerning

**Vital Records – Birth Certificates – Change of Name of Child**

FOR the purpose of altering the circumstances under which the Maryland Department of Health has the authority to change the name on a birth certificate without a court order to allow the Department, if only one parent is named on the birth certificate of the child, to change the name on receipt of certain documents from the parent named on the birth certificate; providing that only one affidavit signed by both parents named on the birth certificate is required under certain circumstances; making stylistic changes; and generally relating to birth certificates.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Health – General

Section 4–214(c)(2)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2019 Replacement Volume)

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

**Article – Health – General**

4–214.

(c) (2) (I) The Department may change the name on a birth certificate once without a court order if, within 12 months after the birth, the Department receives from both parents [of a] **NAMED ON THE BIRTH CERTIFICATE OF THE** child **OR, IF ONLY ONE PARENT IS NAMED, THE PARENT NAMED ON THE BIRTH CERTIFICATE OF THE CHILD:**

[i] 1. A written request for the change of name; and

[ii] 2. An affidavit that has been sworn before a notary public of [this] **THE** State and states that [they are the parents] **THE INDIVIDUAL IS THE PARENT** of the child and [are] **IS** making [this] **THE** request of [their] **THE INDIVIDUAL’S** own free will.

**(II) IF THE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES AN AFFIDAVIT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBPARAGRAPH (I)2 OF THIS PARAGRAPH FROM BOTH PARENTS NAMED ON THE BIRTH CERTIFICATE OF THE CHILD, ONLY ONE AFFIDAVIT SIGNED BY BOTH PARENTS IS REQUIRED.**

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2020.

**Enacted under Article II, § 17(c) of the Maryland Constitution, May 8, 2020.**