

**MARYLAND STATE BAR FAMILY AND JUVENILE LAW SECTION COUNCIL  
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE Bill 0102**

(Vital Records – Birth certificates – Changes of Name of Child)

**January 23, 2020**


This testimony is submitted on behalf of the Family and Juvenile Law Section Council (“FJLSC”) of the Maryland State Bar Association (“MSBA”). The FJLSC is the formal representative of the Family and Juvenile Law Section of the MSBA, which promotes the objectives of the MSBA by improving the administration of justice in the field of family and juvenile law and, at the same time, tries to bring together the members of the MSBA who are concerned with family and juvenile laws and in reforms and improvements in such laws through legislation or otherwise. The FJLSC is charged with the general supervision and control of the affairs of the Section and authorized to act for the Section in any way in which the Section itself could act. The Section has over 1,200 attorney members.

**On behalf of the FJLSC, I support SB 102 and urge the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue a favorable report.**

HB 102 provides an efficient means, without a hearing, to modify a birth certificate within the first 12 months of life with the approval of the individual(s) named on the birth certificate. The bill is sound and reasonable. In cases where paternity is not initially identified on the birth certificate or alternate paternity becomes known in cases where two parents are initially identified on the birth certificate, families are often in turmoil. Having the ability to modify the birth certificate without court intervention eases the process for families in a potentially difficult time. Even if the need for the birth certificate modification is due to mistake, it is reasonable and in the best interests of Maryland families to have needed corrections made with ease. In addition, the interests of judicial economy are served by this bill.

The FJLSC urges the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue a favorable report.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Ilene Glickman, Co-Chair Legislative Committee  
Family and Juvenile Law Section Council  
MSBA