

HB1231 // Family Law – Authorization for a Minor to Marry
In the House - Hearing 2/20 at 1:00 p.m.

Dear Delegates,

I urge you and your Committee members to vote down the House Bill
HB1231 (Family Law – Authorization for a Minor to Marry).

I urge a strong un-favorable for these bills.

If there is concern about certain cultures essentially “raping” Maryland’s youths,
these advocates should be bold enough to highlight and to detail such rapes.

I do not ascribe to youthful marriage being wrongful if youth have decided this is what they
want and will become married and have a family. Our society needs married couples.
I feel that many of the efforts activists on this matter use are fake, completely fake, and
are trying to push another agenda.

I augment my written testimony from last year’s bill regarding younger marriages and the
technicalities involved with it (last year’s testimony queued up/seen here

http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgaweb/Committees/Media/false?cmte=jud&ys=2019RS&clip=JUD_3_7_2019_meeting_1&url=http%3A%2F%2Fmgahouse.maryland.gov%2Fmga%2Fplay%2Fd522a9c9-ac4c-456d-ae26-26de1df66b4d%2F%3Fcatalog%2F03e481c7-8a42-4438-a7da-93ff74bdaa4c%26playfrom%3D8590000)

•• **UnEvenly Applied Inequity** ••

* HB1231 bill cannot be applied equally to relationships. Maryland politics is currently
indulging fanciful viewpoints of adulthood where 18 no longer suffices. Ages to vote, work,
smoke, drink, be responsible for crimes....the concepts of adulthood are morphing, some
pushing the age up, some pushing the age down. While my viewpoint is that this is often
politicized rhetoric embraced solely to benefit political & radical ideologies, the formerly
ironclad view of adulthood (18) in Maryland is being tampered with. Since politicians have
done this, how do we calculate 4 years? Do we presume that each youth is their actual,
chronological age? Do we presume that 4 years is actually 6 years in some cases?
This clause is incalculable and unworkable.

•• **Increased Burden on Courts** ••

* HB1231 MANDATES appointing a lawyer for each case. It specifies a host of requirements
upon that lawyer. Aside from the issue of costs to the state for each instance that a youth would
bring the proposal of marriage to the state (does this very concept not sound communist in
nature?), there are ethical considerations incumbent upon lawyers (i.e. – Officers of the Court)
when dealing with clients; it is essentially assigning a guardian-ad-litem to each proposal of
marriage. Not each marriage. Each proposal.

This is unjust to taxpayers, an unrealistic burden to courts/attorneys, terribly un-American, and
would be traumatic to the couple intent on marriage.

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**** “Best Interest” is for the State to Stay Out ****

* HB1231 mentions use of guessing a “best interest”. This is a ridiculous notion. Our family law courts – across the state – have been inept, corrupt, unbalanced failures. Would every individual/group/lobbyist/attorney/judge combine each of these adjectives in one sentence? Perhaps not; perhaps they haven’t reviewed cases as I have.

But be certain – the various stakeholders, profiteers, scrutinizers, advocates of all stripes have used all such words about Maryland’s family courts each and every year, for at least a decade, in your hearing room.

These courts can’t determine “best interests” when simple cases involve addicted, non-working single mothers (and I have been in file rooms of cases from which to make such a broad assertions).

There is absolutely no way the courts can or should be deciding which marriages will turn out when they can’t even dismantle family in an orderly, “best interest” fashion.

I urge a strong un-favorable for these bills.

Thank you for your votes & your consideration.

humbly

~vince