

KAREN R. TOLES, J.D.
Legislative District 25
Prince George's County

Judiciary Committee

Subcommittee

Civil Law and Procedure



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 206
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3524 · 301-858-3524
800-492-7122 Ext. 3524
Karen.Toles@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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FAVORABLE: HB672 – Family Law - Marriage Ceremony - Designation of Deputy Clerk

TO: Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Moon and Members of the Judiciary Committee

House Bill 672 is a straightforward bill that transfers the authority to designate a Deputy Clerk to perform a marriage ceremony from the county Administrative Judge to the Clerk of the circuit court for the county.

Deputy Clerks of the Circuit Court currently have permission to perform civil marriage ceremonies in the State of Maryland, under the authority granted in section 2-406 of the Family Law Article. Although, the Deputy Clerks have the “permission” to perform marriage ceremonies the approval to do so must still come from the Administrative Law Judge. The aforementioned is an unnecessary bureaucratic step and infringement of the authority of the Clerk to direct the work of their own staff. The Elected Clerks perform thousands of marriage ceremonies a year, HB672 would allow for more flexibility for the Elected Clerks to manage how they carry out marriage ceremonies in their respective counties.

I respectfully ask for my colleagues on the Judiciary committee to give a favorable report on HB672. Thank you for your time and please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have.

Delegate Karen R. Toles