

SB 286 Dom PS SSN.pdf

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January 27, 2025

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr., Chair
Judicial Proceedings Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 East
Annapolis, MD 21401

Support (FAV) – SB 286 – Domestic Partnership and Marriage – Required Information

Dear Chair Smith and Committee Members:

My name is Alexis Burrell-Rohde. I am the Register of Wills for Baltimore County I am testifying in favor of Senate Bill 286. I ask for a favorable committee report on this important legislation.

A revision to our Domestic Partnership statute, Estates & Trusts, § 2-214 is requested because the statute does not currently comply with federal law, specifically 42 U.S.C. § 666, “Requirement of statutorily prescribed procedures to improve effectiveness of child support enforcement.”

42 U.S.C. § 666 requires “each State [to] have in effect laws requiring the use of the following procedures, consistent with this section and with regulations of the Secretary, to increase the effectiveness of the [child support enforcement] program which the State administers under this part.” As part of this mandate, 42 U.S.C. § 666 (13)(A) requires states to collect the social security numbers of people applying for certain licenses including: marriage licenses, professional licenses, drivers’ licenses, hunting licenses, etc. so that the division of child support enforcement can perform a data match to find individuals who owe child support.

The text of that section of 42 U.S.C. § 666 (13)(A) is as follows:

(13)Recording of social security numbers in certain family matters.—Procedures requiring that the social security number of—

(A) any applicant for a professional license, driver’s license, occupational license, recreational license, or marriage license be recorded on the application.

If a state fails to comply with these requirements, the state risks a loss of their federal TANF funds, so the stakes are high for noncompliance.

While there hasn’t been any case law to my knowledge where a state lost TANF funds for failing to require the collection of social security numbers for Domestic Partnership Registrations, the spirit of the law strongly suggests that the collection of social security numbers would be required.

Currently, Maryland's Domestic Partnership law, Estates & Trusts, § 2-214, does not provide for the collection of social security numbers. SB 286 would be a simple update to ensure that the State complies with federal law.

I respectfully recommend a favorable report on Senate Bill 286 and appreciate the Committee's thoughtful attention.

Best regards,

Alexis Burrell-Rohde

Alexis Burrell-Rohde
Register of Wills
Baltimore County

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Uploaded by: Christopher West

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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

January 29, 2025

The Maryland State Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
2 East Miller Senate Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Senate Bill 286: *Domestic Partnership and Marriage - Required Information*

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Committee,

Under current Maryland law, there are specific requirements for registering a domestic partnership or obtaining a marriage license. They include information like full legal name, address, date of birth, marital status, and so on.

However, Domestic Partnership statute, Estates & Trusts, § 2-214 does not currently comply with federal law, specifically 42 U.S.C. § 666 Requirement of statutorily prescribed procedures to improve effectiveness of child support enforcement. 42 U.S.C. § 666 requires "each State [to] have in effect laws requiring the use of the following procedures, consistent with this section and with regulations of the Secretary, to increase the effectiveness of the [child support enforcement] program which the State administers under this part."

As part of this mandate, 42 U.S.C. § 666 (13)(A) requires states to collect the social security numbers of people applying for certain licenses including: marriage licenses, professional licenses, drivers' licenses, hunting licenses, etc. so that the division of child support enforcement can perform a data match to find individuals who owe child support.

Senate Bill 286 simply adds the reporting of both party's social security numbers to the registration, and that these registrations are made with the register of wills. It's a minor change that will add another layer of verification to the registration process and help to ensure we do not lose federal funding for programs like *Temporary Assistance for Needy Families*.

I appreciate the Committee's consideration of Senate Bill 286 and will be happy to answer any questions the Committee may have.