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The Maryland House of Delegates
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony in Support of HB 323
Domestic Partnership and Marriage – Required Information**

Testimony of Delegate Cathi Forbes
Hearing February 6, 2025 at 1:00 pm
Judiciary

What this bill does

This bill is a technical correction to the domestic partnership statute to require the collection of social security numbers when registering a domestic partnership to ensure compliance with Federal requirements. With this change, collecting a social security number when registering a domestic partnership will mirror the existing process for obtaining a marriage license.

Why this bill matters

During the 2023 session the legislature passed [SB792](#) which allowed qualifying domestic partners to [file paperwork in the Register of Wills](#) to become "registered domestic partners." This designation guarantees certain protections and benefits during estate administration in Maryland, that may not be available if a couple is not married.

The legislation as passed fails to collect social security numbers when registering the domestic partners. As social security numbers are not collected, our Domestic Partnership statute, [Estates & Trusts, § 2-214](#) does not currently comply with federal law, specifically 42 U.S.C. § 666.

42 U.S.C. § 666 lists statutorily prescribed procedures to improve effectiveness of child support enforcement.

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.

Who benefits from this bill

The collection of social security numbers when registering domestic partnerships will allow more unpaid child support to be collected and will keep us in compliance with the federal statutes.

Why you should vote for this bill

Although not specifically required in the federal statute, the spirit of the law is that social security numbers are collected in the applications for all kinds of licenses. To not collect them when registering a domestic partnership violates the spirit of the law. If a state fails to comply with these requirements to aid in the recovery of child support payments, the state risks a loss of their federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds, so the stakes are high for noncompliance.

I ask for a favorable report on HB323.

Title 42 The Public Health and Welfare
Chapter 7 – Social Security

§666. Requirement of statutorily prescribed procedures to improve effectiveness of child support enforcement

(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;

(B) any individual who is subject to a divorce decree, support order, or paternity determination or acknowledgment be placed in the records relating to the matter; and

(C) any individual who has died be placed in the records relating to the death and be recorded on the death certificate.