
By: **Delegates Heller and Barve**
Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2000
Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Family Law - Prohibited Marriages - First Cousins**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting individuals who are first cousins from marrying; and
4 providing for the application of this Act.

5 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
6 Article - Family Law
7 Section 2-202
8 Annotated Code of Maryland
9 (1999 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

10 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
11 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

12 **Article - Family Law**

13 2-202.

14 (a) Any marriage performed in this State that is prohibited by this section is
15 void.

16 (b) (1) A man may not marry his:

17 (i) grandmother;

18 (ii) mother;

19 (iii) daughter;

20 (iv) sister; or

21 (v) granddaughter.

22 (2) A woman may not marry her:

23 (i) grandfather;

- 1 (ii) father;
- 2 (iii) son;
- 3 (iv) brother; or
- 4 (v) grandson.

5 (3) An individual who violates any provision of this subsection is guilty
6 of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to a fine of \$1,500 or to permanent
7 banishment from this State.

- 8 (c) (1) A man may not marry his:
- 9 (i) grandfather's wife;
 - 10 (ii) wife's grandmother;
 - 11 (iii) father's sister;
 - 12 (iv) mother's sister;
 - 13 (v) stepmother;
 - 14 (vi) wife's mother;
 - 15 (vii) wife's daughter;
 - 16 (viii) son's wife;
 - 17 (ix) grandson's wife;
 - 18 (x) wife's granddaughter;
 - 19 (xi) brother's daughter; [or]
 - 20 (xii) sister's daughter; OR
 - 21 (XIII) FIRST COUSIN.

- 22 (2) A woman may not marry her:
- 23 (i) grandmother's husband;
 - 24 (ii) husband's grandfather;
 - 25 (iii) father's brother;
 - 26 (iv) mother's brother;
 - 27 (v) stepfather;

- 1 (vi) husband's father;
- 2 (vii) husband's son;
- 3 (viii) daughter's husband;
- 4 (ix) husband's grandson;
- 5 (x) brother's son;
- 6 (xi) sister's son; [or]
- 7 (xii) granddaughter's husband; OR
- 8 (XIII) FIRST COUSIN.

9 (3) An individual who violates any provision of this subsection is guilty
10 of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to a fine of \$500.

11 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall be
12 construed only prospectively and may not be applied or interpreted to have any effect
13 on or application to any marriage between first cousins before the effective date of
14 this Act.

15 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
16 October 1, 2000.