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

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Committee Report: Favorable  
House action: Adopted  
Read second time: February 29, 2000

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CHAPTER\_\_\_\_\_

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;

1 (iv) sister; or

2 (v) granddaughter.

3 (2) A woman may not marry her:

4 (i) grandfather;

5 (ii) father;

6 (iii) son;

7 (iv) brother; or

8 (v) grandson.

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 \$1,500 or to permanent  
11 banishment from this State.

12 (c) (1) A man may not marry his:

13 (i) grandfather's wife;

14 (ii) wife's grandmother;

15 (iii) father's sister;

16 (iv) mother's sister;

17 (v) stepmother;

18 (vi) wife's mother;

19 (vii) wife's daughter;

20 (viii) son's wife;

21 (ix) grandson's wife;

22 (x) wife's granddaughter;

23 (xi) brother's daughter; [or]

24 (xii) sister's daughter; OR

25 (XIII) FIRST COUSIN.

26 (2) A woman may not marry her:

27 (i) grandmother's husband;

- 1 (ii) husband's grandfather;
- 2 (iii) father's brother;
- 3 (iv) mother's brother;
- 4 (v) stepfather;
- 5 (vi) husband's father;
- 6 (vii) husband's son;
- 7 (viii) daughter's husband;
- 8 (ix) husband's grandson;
- 9 (x) brother's son;
- 10 (xi) sister's son; [or]
- 11 (xii) granddaughter's husband; OR
- 12 (XIII) FIRST COUSIN.

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

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

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