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By: **Delegate Greenip**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2001

Assigned to: Judiciary

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Family Law - Foreign Marriages - Invalidity**

3 FOR the purpose of providing that a marriage between two individuals of the same  
4 sex that is validly entered into in another state or in a foreign country is not  
5 valid in this State; providing that certain contractual rights or obligations  
6 created by a marriage between individuals of the same sex are void; defining  
7 "marriage" and "spouse"; altering the definition of a "foreign marriage"; and  
8 generally relating to the validity of certain marriages in the State.

9 BY adding to

10 Article - Family Law  
11 Section 2-101(e) and (f)  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

15 Article - Family Law  
16 Section 2-201 and 2-502(a)  
17 Annotated Code of Maryland  
18 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

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

21 **Article - Family Law**

22 2-101.

23 (E) "MARRIAGE" MEANS A LEGAL UNION BETWEEN A MAN AND A WOMAN AS  
24 HUSBAND AND WIFE.

25 (F) "SPOUSE" MEANS A MEMBER OF A LEGAL UNION BETWEEN A MAN AND A  
26 WOMAN AS HUSBAND AND WIFE.

1 2-201.

2 (A) Only a marriage between a man and a woman is valid in this State.

3 (B) (1) A MARRIAGE BETWEEN TWO INDIVIDUALS OF THE SAME SEX THAT IS  
4 VALIDLY ENTERED INTO IN ANOTHER STATE OR IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY IS NOT  
5 VALID IN THIS STATE.

6 (2) A MARRIAGE BETWEEN TWO INDIVIDUALS OF THE SAME SEX MAY  
7 NOT BE RECOGNIZED BY THE STATE AS BEING ENTITLED TO THE BENEFITS OF  
8 MARRIAGE.

9 (3) ANY CONTRACTUAL RIGHTS OR OBLIGATIONS CREATED BY A  
10 MARRIAGE BETWEEN TWO INDIVIDUALS OF THE SAME SEX ARE VOID.

11 2-502.

12 (a) In this section, "foreign marriage" means a marriage ceremony:

13 (1) performed outside this State; [and]

14 (2) BETWEEN A MAN AND A WOMAN; AND

15 [(2)] (3) in which 1 or both of the parties were or are citizens of this  
16 State.

17 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
18 October 1, 2001.