
By: **Delegates Shriver and Grosfeld**
Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2001
Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Family Law - Marriage License - Social Security Number of Applicants**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring that a marriage license issued by a clerk of the circuit
4 court for a county in the State contain the Social Security number of each
5 applicant; altering the contents of a marriage license to require that the Social
6 Security number of each party appear; and generally relating to marriage
7 licenses and the Social Security number of applicants.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article - Family Law
10 Section 2-402 and 2-403
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

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

15 **Article - Family Law**

16 2-402.

17 (a) An applicant for a license may apply to the clerk only at the office of the
18 clerk during regular office hours.

19 (b) Except as provided in subsections [(d) and (e)] (C) AND (D) of this section,
20 to apply for a license, 1 of the parties to be married shall:

21 (1) appear before the clerk and give, under oath, the following
22 information, which shall be placed on an application form by the clerk:

- 23 (i) the full name of each party;
- 24 (ii) the place of residence of each party;
- 25 (iii) the age of each party;

1 (iv) whether the parties are related by blood or marriage and, if so,
2 in which degree of relationship;

3 (v) the marital status of each party; [and]

4 (vi) whether either party was married previously, and the date and
5 place of each death or judicial determination that ended any former marriage; and

6 (VII) THE SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER OF EACH PARTY; AND

7 (2) sign the application form.

8 (c) [(1) The license application shall provide spaces for the voluntary
9 disclosure of the Social Security numbers of the parties.

10 (2) The clerk shall place Social Security numbers that are disclosed
11 under this subsection on the marriage license certificate forms required under §
12 2-403 of this subtitle.

13 (d)] If the parties to be married are not residents of the county where the
14 marriage ceremony is to be performed, the clerk shall accept, instead of the
15 application specified in subsection (b) of this section, an affidavit from 1 of the parties
16 to be married. The affidavit shall:

17 (1) contain the information required by subsection (b) of this section; and

18 (2) be sworn to under oath before a clerk or other comparable official in
19 the county, state, province, or country where the party resides.

20 [(e)] (D) In Cecil County both parties to be married shall appear together
21 before the clerk to apply for a license.

22 [(f)] (E) Until a license becomes effective, a clerk may not disclose the fact
23 that an application for a license has been made except to the parent or guardian of a
24 party to be married.

25 2-403.

26 (a) (1) A license shall read substantially as follows:

27 "State of Maryland and County of To any individual authorized by the
28 laws of this State to perform a marriage ceremony. You are hereby authorized to join
29 together in matrimony according to the rules and ceremonies of your church, society
30 or religious sect and the laws of this State, or according to the laws of this State, the
31 following individuals:

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32 (state here name of intended husband)

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33 (state here name of intended wife)

1 Given under my hand and seal of the Circuit Court for, this day of
2 (state here month and year)."

3 (2) A license shall contain:

4 (i) appropriate spaces in which the clerk shall enter:

- 5 1. the relationship of the parties to be married, if any;
- 6 2. as to each party, the name, age, state or foreign country in
7 which born, residence, and marital status (single, widowed, or divorced); and
- 8 3. the Social Security number of each party [who voluntarily
9 discloses the number]; and

10 (ii) a statement that the license is valid only:

- 11 1. for 6 months from the effective date and time stated on the
12 license; and
- 13 2. in the county in which it is issued.

14 (b) (1) Attached to a license shall be 2 certificate forms that:

15 (i) read, "I hereby certify that on this day of (state
16 here month and year), (state here time), at (state here location), in
17 accordance with the license issued by the Clerk of the Circuit Court for
18(state here jurisdiction), I united in marriage the following individuals:

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19 (state here name of husband)

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20 (state here name of wife)";

21 (ii) restate all information concerning the individuals married that
22 is stated on the marriage license; and

23 (iii) provide a space for the signature of the authorized official who
24 performs the marriage ceremony.

25 (2) Attached to a license, in the case of a Society of Friends marriage
26 ceremony, shall be 2 certificate forms that:

27 (i) read, "We hereby certify that on this day of (state
28 here month and year), (state here time), at (state here location), we,
29 (state here name of husband) and (state here name of wife) were
30 united in marriage in accordance with the ceremony of the Society of Friends and in
31 accordance with the license issued by the Clerk of the Circuit Court for (state
32 here jurisdiction)";

1 (ii) restate all information concerning the individuals married that
2 is stated on the marriage license; and

3 (iii) provide spaces for the signatures of the parties and the 2
4 overseers of the marriage ceremony.

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