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By: **Delegates Kullen, Benson, Gaines, Haynes, Kohl, Montgomery,  
Nathan-Pulliam, and Parker**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2006

Assigned to: Judiciary

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Family Law - Divorce - Change of Surname of Child**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing a court, in granting a decree of absolute divorce, to  
4 change the surname of a child born to the parties under certain circumstances;  
5 requiring the child's surname to be in a certain form; and generally relating to  
6 the change of the surname of a child in a divorce proceeding.

7 BY adding to

8 Article - Family Law

9 Section 7-108

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF

13 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

14 **Article - Family Law**

15 7-108.

16 (A) IN GRANTING A DECREE OF ABSOLUTE DIVORCE, ON REQUEST OF EITHER  
17 PARTY, THE COURT MAY CHANGE THE SURNAME OF ANY CHILD BORN TO THE  
18 PARTIES, UNLESS THE COURT FINDS BY CLEAR AND CONVINCING EVIDENCE THAT  
19 THE CHANGE IS NOT IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CHILD.

20 (B) THE CHANGE IN THE CHILD'S SURNAME SHALL INCLUDE THE MOTHER'S  
21 SURNAME AND THE FATHER'S SURNAME.

22 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect

23 October 1, 2006.