

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 184
Judiciary

(Delegate Shewell, *et al.*)

Marriage - License Application - Government Issued Photo Identification Card
Required

This bill requires that an applicant for a marriage license show the Clerk of the Court a government issued photo identification card as part of the application process. If a nonresident of the county applies for a marriage license, then that party must show the clerk a government issued photo identification card, when submitting an affidavit. In Cecil County, both parties to be married must each show the clerk a government issued photo identification card.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill's requirements could be met with existing resources.

Local Effect: The bill's requirements could be met with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Applicants for a marriage license must provide specified information on a marriage application including names, place of residence, ages, and whether the applicants are related by blood or marriage and the degree of that relationship. Applicants must also disclose any previous marriages and information on the termination of any former marriages. Applicants must provide the clerk with the Social Security number of each party who has a number. The Social Security number must be included

in the electronic application file and may not be disclosed as part of the public record of the marriage license application, unless required by law.

If the parties to be married are not residents of the county where the ceremony is to be performed, the clerk is required to accept an affidavit with specified information from the parties, instead of an application. In Cecil County, both parties to be married must appear together before the clerk to apply for a license. Until a license becomes effective, a clerk is prohibited from disclosing that an application for a marriage license has been submitted, except to the parent or guardian of a party to be married.

Background: The Judiciary advises that Clerks of the Court issued 32,543 marriage licenses statewide during fiscal 2005.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 13, 2006
nas/jr

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