HOUSE BILL 1174

D4 8lr2133

By: Delegates Dumais and Doory

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2008

Assigned to: Judiciary

AN ACT concerning

A BILL ENTITLED

2	Domestic Partnerships - Establishment and Rules of Interpretation

FOR the purpose of establishing that terms under certain provisions of law that denote a spousal relationship shall be construed to include a party to a domestic partnership; authorizing certain parties to enter into domestic partnerships in the State; establishing that certain provisions that apply to marriages apply to domestic partnerships; establishing that State and local laws that apply to spouses apply to parties who have entered into a domestic partnership; and generally relating to domestic partnerships.

10 BY adding to

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- 11 Article 1 Rules of Interpretation
- Section 38
- 13 Annotated Code of Maryland
- 14 (2005 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)
- 15 BY adding to
- 16 Article Family Law
- 17 Section 2.5–101 and 2.5–102 to be under the new title "Title 2.5. Domestic
- 18 Partnerships"
- 19 Annotated Code of Maryland
- 20 (2006 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)
- 21 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
- 22 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article 1 – Rules of Interpretation

24 **38**.

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1	THE TERMS "SPOUSE", "HUSBAND", "WIFE", "FAMILY", "IMMEDIATE
2	FAMILY", "DEPENDENT", "NEXT OF KIN", AND ANY OTHER TERMS THAT DENOTE
3	THE SPOUSAL RELATIONSHIP SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO INCLUDE A PARTY TO A
4	DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP.
5	Article - Family Law
6	TITLE 2.5. DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIPS.
7	2.5–101.
8	(A) TWO PARTIES MAY ENTER INTO A DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP IN THE
9	STATE IF EACH PARTY:
10	(1) IS NOT A PARTY TO A DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP, CIVIL UNION,
11	OR MARRIAGE WITH ANOTHER PERSON; AND
12	(2) IS AT LEAST 18 YEARS OLD.
13	(B) EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THIS TITLE, THE PROVISIONS
14	THAT APPLY TO MARRIAGES UNDER TITLE 2 OF THIS ARTICLE APPLY TO
15	DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIPS.
16	2.5–102.
17	EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THIS TITLE, STATE AND LOCAL
18	LAWS THAT APPLY TO SPOUSES SHALL APPLY TO PARTIES WHO HAVE ENTERED
19	INTO A DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP.
20	SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
21	October 1, 2008.