

HOUSE BILL 1605

D4

8lr3186

By: **Delegates Bates, Beitzel, Carter, Dwyer, Eckardt, McConkey, McDonough, Miller, Myers, Shewell, Sophocleus, and Walkup**
Introduced and read first time: March 3, 2008
Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Divorce – Mutual Consent Required**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a court from granting a decree of divorce on the
4 grounds of a voluntary separation or a 2–year separation under certain
5 circumstances; and generally relating to divorce.

6 BY adding to

7 Article – Family Law

8 Section 7–103.3

9 Annotated Code of Maryland

10 (2006 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

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

13 **Article – Family Law**

14 **7–103.3.**

15 (A) **A COURT MAY NOT GRANT A DECREE OF LIMITED DIVORCE ON THE**
16 **GROUND OF A VOLUNTARY SEPARATION AS DESCRIBED IN § 7–102 OF THIS**
17 **TITLE OR A DECREE OF ABSOLUTE DIVORCE ON THE GROUND OF A VOLUNTARY**
18 **SEPARATION OR A 2–YEAR SEPARATION AS DESCRIBED IN § 7–103 OF THIS**
19 **TITLE IF:**

20 (1) (i) **THERE IS A MINOR CHILD:**

21 **1. BORN OF THE PARTIES;**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **2. BORN OF EITHER PARTY AND ADOPTED BY THE**
2 **OTHER PARTY; OR**

3 **3. ADOPTED BY BOTH PARTIES; OR**

4 **(II) ONE PARTY IS PREGNANT; AND**

5 **(2) EITHER PARTY FILES A WRITTEN OBJECTION TO THE**
6 **GRANTING OF A DIVORCE UNDER THIS SECTION.**

7 **(B) A WRITTEN OBJECTION FILED UNDER THIS SECTION MAY BE**
8 **WITHDRAWN AT ANY TIME DURING THE PROCEEDING.**

9 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
10 October 1, 2008.