

# HOUSE BILL 346

D1, D4, E3

5lr0598

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By: **Delegates Morales, Pena–Melnyk, Angel, Atterbeary, D. Barnes, Campos, Carter, Chang, Dumais, Frick, Jackson, Kipke, Kittleman, Moon, Patterson, Platt, Smith, Sydnor, Vallario, Waldstreicher, Walker, A. Washington, and K. Young**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2015

Assigned to: Judiciary

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Court Personnel – Altering References From Master to Magistrate**

3 FOR the purpose of altering references to the term “master” to “magistrate” in provisions  
4 of law prohibiting certain individuals from practicing law or preparing or helping to  
5 prepare certain documents while employed in a certain capacity, in provisions  
6 concerning the appointment and employment of circuit court personnel, in provisions  
7 concerning the appointment, powers, and duties of juvenile court masters, in  
8 provisions concerning mediation of certain matters, in provisions requiring oral  
9 testimony in an action for alimony, annulment, or divorce, and in provisions relating  
10 to the Judges’ Retirement System; and generally relating to circuit court and juvenile  
11 court masters.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
13 Article – Business Occupations and Professions  
14 Section 10–603(a)  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

17 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
18 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings  
19 Section 2–102(a), 2–501(a) and (e), 3–807, 3–8A–04, and 3–1802(b)  
20 Annotated Code of Maryland  
21 (2013 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

22 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
23 Article – Family Law  
24 Section 1–203(c)  
25 Annotated Code of Maryland

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

2 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
3 Article – State Personnel and Pensions  
4 Section 27–201(a), 27–304(c), and 27–402(b)(1)  
5 Annotated Code of Maryland  
6 (2009 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

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

9 **Article – Business Occupations and Professions**

10 10–603.

11 (a) This section does not apply to:

12 (1) a lawyer while employed as a part–time [master] **MAGISTRATE** for  
13 juvenile cases; or

14 (2) an individual while:

15 (i) performing an affirmative duty required by law; or

16 (ii) engaging in an activity related to a case in which the individual  
17 is a party or has a property interest.

18 **Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

19 2–102.

20 (a) If advisable in a specific proceeding, a court may appoint an auditor, surveyor,  
21 court reporter, assistant counsel for the State, counsel for a party if authorized by law or  
22 rule, accountant, [master] **MAGISTRATE**, examiner, or other officer, and may require his  
23 presence in court.

24 2–501.

25 (a) Except as provided for the Circuit Court for Baltimore City in Subtitle 5A of  
26 this title, the judges of the circuit court for a county may employ the court administrators,  
27 assignment commissioners, auditors, [masters] **MAGISTRATES**, examiners, court  
28 reporters, messengers, bailiffs, court criers, librarians, clerks, secretaries, stenographers,  
29 jury commissioners, law clerks, and other employees necessary to conduct the business of  
30 the court.

1 (e) (1) There shall be included in the State budget for the Judicial Branch an  
2 appropriation to the Administrative Office of the Courts in the amount necessary to pay  
3 salaries and benefits of standing circuit court [masters] **MAGISTRATES**.

4 (2) The Administrative Office of the Courts shall:

5 (i) Identify the standing circuit court [masters] **MAGISTRATES**; and

6 (ii) Develop a personnel management plan and funding plan to  
7 implement this subsection.

8 (3) A standing [master] **MAGISTRATE** of a circuit court or a judicial circuit  
9 shall report to and perform the duties and assignments determined by the judges of the  
10 respective circuit court or circuit, in accordance with the statewide policy on [masters]  
11 **MAGISTRATES**.

12 (4) The Court of Appeals may adopt rules concerning the [master]  
13 **MAGISTRATE** positions described in this subsection.

14 (5) (i) Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, circuit court  
15 [masters] **MAGISTRATES** identified under paragraph (2) of this subsection shall remain  
16 county or Baltimore City employees and shall not be State employees.

17 (ii) A circuit court [master] **MAGISTRATE** identified under  
18 paragraph (2) of this subsection may elect to become a State employee between January 1,  
19 2002, and March 31, 2002, both inclusive.

20 (iii) A circuit court [master] **MAGISTRATE** who elects under this  
21 subsection to become a State employee shall become a State employee on July 1, 2002.

22 (iv) A standing circuit court [master] **MAGISTRATE** hired on or after  
23 July 1, 2002, shall be a State employee.

24 3-807.

25 (a) (1) The judges of a circuit court may not appoint a [master] **MAGISTRATE**  
26 for juvenile causes arising under this subtitle and Subtitle 8A of this title unless the  
27 appointment and the appointee are approved by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals.

28 (2) The standards expressed in § 3-806(b) of this subtitle, with respect to  
29 the assignment of judges, are applicable to the appointment of [masters] **MAGISTRATES**.

30 (3) A [master] **MAGISTRATE**, at the time of appointment and at all times  
31 while serving as a [master] **MAGISTRATE**, shall be a member in good standing of the  
32 Maryland Bar.

1 (b) (1) A [master] MAGISTRATE appointed for juvenile causes may conduct  
2 hearings.

3 (2) Each proceeding shall be recorded, and the [master] MAGISTRATE  
4 shall make findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommendations as to an appropriate  
5 order.

6 (3) The proposals and recommendations shall be in writing, and, within 10  
7 days after the hearing, the original shall be filed with the court and a copy served on each  
8 party to the proceeding.

9 (c) (1) Any party, in accordance with the Maryland Rules, may file written  
10 exceptions to any or all of the [master's] MAGISTRATE'S findings, conclusions, and  
11 recommendations, but shall specify those items to which the party objects.

12 (2) The party who files exceptions may elect a hearing de novo or a hearing  
13 on the record before the court unless the party is the State in proceedings involving juvenile  
14 delinquency under Subtitle 8A of this title.

15 (3) If the State is the excepting party in proceedings involving juvenile  
16 delinquency, the hearing shall be on the record, supplemented by additional evidence as  
17 the judge considers relevant and to which the parties raise no objection.

18 (4) In either case, the hearing shall be limited to those matters to which  
19 exceptions have been taken.

20 (d) (1) The proposals and recommendations of a [master] MAGISTRATE for  
21 juvenile causes do not constitute orders or final action of the court.

22 (2) The proposals and recommendations shall be promptly reviewed by the  
23 court, and, in the absence of timely and proper exceptions, they may be adopted by the court  
24 and appropriate orders entered based on them.

25 (3) Detention, community detention, or shelter care may be ordered by a  
26 [master] MAGISTRATE pending court review of the [master's] MAGISTRATE'S findings,  
27 conclusions, and recommendations.

28 (e) If the court, on its own motion and in the absence of timely and proper  
29 exceptions, decides not to adopt the [master's] MAGISTRATE'S findings, conclusions, and  
30 recommendations, or any of them, the court shall conduct a de novo hearing, unless all  
31 parties and the court agree to a hearing on the record.

32 3-8A-04.

33 The provisions of §§ 3-806, 3-807, and 3-829 of this title govern judges, [masters]  
34 MAGISTRATES, and local juvenile court committees under this subtitle.

1 3–1802.

2 (b) This subtitle does not apply to a mediation:

3 (1) To which Title 17 of the Maryland Rules applies;

4 (2) Relating to the establishment, negotiation, administration, or  
5 termination of a collective bargaining relationship;

6 (3) Relating to a dispute that is pending under, or is part of the processes  
7 established by, a collective bargaining agreement unless the dispute has been filed with an  
8 administrative agency or court;

9 (4) Relating to an action to enforce an agreement to arbitrate under  
10 common law, the Federal Arbitration Act, the Maryland Uniform Arbitration Act under  
11 Subtitle 2 of this title, or the Maryland International Commercial Arbitration Act under  
12 Subtitle 2B of this title;

13 (5) Relating to an action to foreclose a lien against an owner-occupied  
14 residential property subject to foreclosure mediation conducted by the Office of  
15 Administrative Hearings under Maryland Rule 14–209.1;

16 (6) Arising from a referral of a matter to a [master] MAGISTRATE,  
17 examiner, auditor, or parenting coordinator under Maryland Rules 2–541, 2–542, 2–543, or  
18 9–205.2; or

19 (7) Conducted by a judge who might make a ruling on a case based on the  
20 dispute.

## 21 Article – Family Law

22 1–203.

23 (c) In an action for alimony, annulment, or divorce, a final decree may not be  
24 entered except on oral testimony by the plaintiff in a hearing before an examiner or a  
25 [master] MAGISTRATE or in open court.

## 26 Article – State Personnel and Pensions

27 27–201.

28 (a) The following individuals are members of the Judges' Retirement System:

29 (1) a judge of the Court of Appeals, Court of Special Appeals, circuit court  
30 of a county, or District Court of Maryland;

1 (2) a member of the State Workers' Compensation Commission; and

2 (3) a [master] **MAGISTRATE** in chancery or [master] **MAGISTRATE** in  
3 juvenile causes who:

4 (i) was appointed by the circuit court of a county on or before June  
5 30, 1989; and

6 (ii) serves full time as a [master] **MAGISTRATE**.

7 27–304.

8 (c) A member may purchase service credit for prior service as:

9 (1) a full-time [master] **MAGISTRATE** in chancery or [master]  
10 **MAGISTRATE** in juvenile causes on or before June 30, 1975; or

11 (2) a member of the State Workers' Compensation Commission on or before  
12 June 30, 1977.

13 27–402.

14 (b) (1) This subsection applies only to a retiree who is a [master]  
15 **MAGISTRATE** in chancery or juvenile causes at the time of termination of service.

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
17 October 1, 2015.