

Chapter 380

(House Bill 274)

AN ACT concerning

Family Law – Divorce – Corroboration of Testimony

FOR the purpose of repealing a provision prohibiting a court from entering a decree of divorce on the uncorroborated testimony of the party seeking the divorce; repealing a provision specifying that, in a suit for absolute divorce on the grounds of voluntary separation, a separation agreement is full corroboration of the plaintiff's testimony that the separation was voluntary under certain circumstances; and generally relating to divorce.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Family Law
Section 7–101
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2012 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

BY repealing
Article – Family Law
Section 8–104
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2012 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

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

Article – Family Law

7–101.

[(a)] If the grounds for the divorce occurred outside of this State, a party may not apply for a divorce unless one of the parties has resided in this State for at least 6 months before the application is filed.

[(b)] A court may not enter a decree of divorce on the uncorroborated testimony of the party who is seeking the divorce.]

[8–104.

In a suit for absolute divorce on the grounds of voluntary separation, a separation agreement is full corroboration of the plaintiff's testimony that the separation was voluntary if the agreement:

- (1) states that the spouses voluntarily agreed to separate; and
- (2) is executed under oath before the application for divorce is filed.]

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2016.

Approved by the Governor, May 10, 2016.