

Chapter 625

(Senate Bill 83)

AN ACT concerning

Family Law – Divorce – Restoration of Former Name

FOR the purpose of authorizing the court, on motion of a party filed within a certain period of time after a final decree of absolute divorce is entered, to change the name of the requesting party to a certain former name under certain circumstances; specifying that certain provisions of law relating to a change of name do not apply to a change of name in connection with a decree of absolute divorce; and generally relating to divorce and the restoration of a former name.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 Article – Family Law
 Section 7–105
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

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

Article – Family Law

7–105.

(A) In granting a decree of absolute divorce **OR ON MOTION OF A PARTY FILED WITHIN 18 MONTHS AFTER A FINAL DECREE OF ABSOLUTE DIVORCE IS ENTERED**, the court shall change the name of [a] **THE REQUESTING** party to either the name given the party at birth or any other former name the party wishes to use if:

- (1) the party took a new name on marriage and no longer wishes to use it;
- (2) the party asks for the change of name; and
- (3) the purpose of the party is not illegal, fraudulent, or immoral.

(B) **THE PROVISIONS OF MARYLAND RULE 15–901 RELATING TO AN ACTION FOR A CHANGE OF NAME DO NOT APPLY TO A CHANGE OF NAME UNDER THIS SECTION.**

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2017.

Approved by the Governor, May 25, 2017.