

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2021 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Third Reader

Senate Bill 488

(Senator Beidle)

Judicial Proceedings

Judiciary

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Family Law - Marriage - Licenses and Records

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This bill alters specified designations that must be included on marriage licenses and certificates and specifies that the information required to be kept by the circuit court clerks related to marriage licenses may be an electronic record.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** The Judiciary can absorb any potential minimal programming costs using existing budgeted resources. The bill does not otherwise materially affect the operations or finances of the Judiciary.

**Local Effect:** The bill does not materially affect the operations or finances of the circuit courts.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Bill Summary/Current Law:** Under current law, marriage licenses and certificates must meet specific content requirements, including specified wording and designated space for the names of the parties to be married. Under current law, statute specifies that the names of the husband and wife must be stated on the license and certificate. The bill changes these references to party one and party two.

Under current law, each clerk must keep in the clerk's office a marriage license book that includes specified information, including a complete record of each license issued and a

properly indexed record of the name of each individual who intends to be married. The bill specifies that the clerk may keep this information as an *electronic* record.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Designated Cross File:** HB 449 (Delegate Bartlett) - Judiciary.

**Information Source(s):** Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 2, 2021  
an/lgc Third Reader - March 22, 2021

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