

Chapter 926

(Senate Bill 136)

AN ACT concerning

Family Law – Marriage Ceremony – Designation of Deputy Clerk

FOR the purpose of transferring, from the county administrative judge of the circuit court for the county to the clerk of the circuit court for the county, the authority to designate a deputy clerk to perform a marriage ceremony; and generally relating to marriage ceremonies.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Family Law

Section 2–406(a)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2019 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

Article – Family Law

2–406.

(a) (1) In this subsection, “judge” means:

(i) a judge of the District Court, a circuit court, the Appellate Court of Maryland, or the Supreme Court of Maryland;

(ii) a judge approved under Article IV, § 3A of the Maryland Constitution and § 1–302 of the Courts Article for recall and assignment to the District Court, a circuit court, the Appellate Court of Maryland, or the Supreme Court of Maryland;

(iii) a judge of a United States District Court, a United States Court of Appeals, or the United States Tax Court; or

(iv) a judge of a state court if the judge is active or retired but eligible for recall.

(2) A marriage ceremony may be performed in this State by:

(i) any official of a religious order or body authorized by the rules and customs of that order or body to perform a marriage ceremony;

(ii) any clerk;

(iii) any deputy clerk designated by the [county administrative judge] **CLERK** of the circuit court for the county; or

(iv) a judge.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2024.

Approved by the Governor, May 16, 2024.