

# SENATE BILL 355

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CF HB 95

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By: **Senator Ready**

Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2026

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Family Law – Marriage License Applications – Appearance in Court**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring both parties to be married, rather than one party, to appear  
4 before the clerk of a circuit court to apply for a marriage license; and generally  
5 relating to marriage license applications.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
7 Article – Family Law  
8 Section 2–402(b)  
9 Annotated Code of Maryland  
10 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

11 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
12 Article – Family Law  
13 Section 2–402(d)  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

18 **Article – Family Law**

19 2–402.

20 (b) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, to apply for a license, [one  
21 of the] **BOTH** parties to be married shall:

22 (1) appear before the clerk and give, under oath, the following information,  
23 which shall be placed on an application form by the clerk:

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- (i) the full legal name of each party;
- (ii) the place of residence of each party;
- (iii) the date of birth of each party;
- (iv) whether the parties are related by blood or marriage and, if so, in which degree of relationship;
- (v) the marital status of each party; and
- (vi) whether either party was married previously, and the date and place of each death or judicial determination that ended any former marriage;
- (2) sign the application form; and
- (3) provide the clerk with:
- (i) the Social Security number of each party who has a Social Security number; and
- (ii) a copy of an official government-issued birth certificate or other official government-issued document or record demonstrating the age of each party.
- (d) (1) If the parties to be married are not residents of the county where the marriage ceremony is to be performed, the clerk shall accept, instead of the application specified in subsection (b) of this section, an affidavit from one of the parties to be married.
- (2) The affidavit required under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall:
- (i) contain the information required by subsection (b) of this section; and
- (ii) be sworn to under oath before a clerk or other comparable official in the county, state, province, or country where the party resides.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2026.