

**January 20, 2020**

Hon. Chairman Luke Clippinger  
6 Bladen Street, House Room 101  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Mr. Chair,

The prevailing rule is that judges do not question why people get married when considering the invocation of the spousal privilege. House Bill 64 creates an exception to this rule which prevents invocation of the privilege in the case for couples wed after the related crime.

This bill is related to the case of Darrayl Wilson. Wilson was convicted of tampering and obstruction of justice by marrying Kaerra Bannister, whose testimony is sought by prosecutors to link Wilson to the murder of Crystal Anderson. The conviction was overturned with the appellate court citing the “prevailing rule” that judges do not question why people are married.

House Bill 64 closes this loophole by creating an exception to the spousal privilege rule that disallows the invocation of the spousal privilege in the case where the defendant and partner are married after the crime in question.

Thank you for the hearing for House Bill 64. I am happy to discuss any questions and I ask for a favorable report.

Delegate Robin Grammer