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Maryland Circuit Court Clerks' Association

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“Where there is unity, there is strength”

HB1203 Certificates of Birth and Marriage Certificates - Issuance of New Certificates - Sex Designation

Health and Government Operations Committee – March 2, 2021

Sponsor: Delegate Lisa Belcastro

Position: Unfavorable

Testimony of Kathy P. Smith, President, Maryland Circuit Court Clerks Association

Thank you, Chair Pendergrass and members of the committee for this opportunity to submit written testimony regarding HB 1203. For the record, my name is Kathy Smith, President of the Maryland Circuit Court Clerks' Association, which represents the elected Clerks of the Circuit Court in Maryland.

The Circuit Court Clerks Association unanimously opposes HB 1203 as written because we cannot comply with the proposed legislation's requirement regarding changing information on historic paper records. We are willing to work with the sponsors to apply the bill to current and future electronic marriage records. The Clerk's Association has had one meeting with the bill sponsor so far, which we believe was very positive. If given additional time and discussion, we believe amended language could be agreed upon so that the Clerks would be able to implement modifications with our current and future electronic marriage records in order to achieve the goals of the bill.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.