

SB488BeidleTestimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Beidle, Pamela

Position: FAV

PAMELA G. BEIDLE
Legislative District 32
Anne Arundel County

Finance Committee

Vice Chair
Executive Nominations Committee



James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 202
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3593 · 301-858-3593
800-492-7122 Ext. 3593
Pamela.Beidle@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 9, 2021

SB0488

Family Law - Marriage - Licenses and Records

Chairman Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to share **SB0488**, Family Law – Marriage – Licenses and Records with you. This is a very simple piece of legislation, it seeks to bring the code up to date with the current practices taking place in the Clerk of Courts offices.

SB488 make two changes:

- updates the specific wording requiring the names of the husband and wife on the marriage license and certificates to party one and party two,
- allows the marriage license book to be an electronic record.

Thank you for your consideration of SB 292 and I urge the committee to move this bill with a favorable report.

Testimony SB0488 (Hon. Mahasin El Amin).pdf

Uploaded by: El Amin, Mahasin

Position: FAV

SB0488 Family Law - Marriage - Licenses and Records
Judicial Proceedings Committee – February 9, 2021
Sponsor: Senator Pamela Beidle
Position: Support

Testimony of Mahasin El Amin, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Prince George's County

Thank you, Chairman Smith and members of the committee, for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 488. For the record, my name is Mahasin El Amin, Clerk of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County. Like my colleague, Clerk Poyer, I am testifying on behalf of the Clerk's Association whose members unanimously support this bill.

Our Clerk's Association supports SB 488 because it updates two sections of the Family Law Article related to marriage licenses and records. It also brings it in line with our current business practices. Specifically, regarding the second update, Family Law section 2-501 Marriage License Book, currently requires that each Clerk keep a "**marriage license book.**" As you know, the Clerk of the Circuit Court is responsible for maintaining the court's records, that includes case and non-case related matters, including marriage license applications and the actual certificate. While official marriage license records were kept in paper book format for many years, the transition to electronic records occurred years ago. SB 488 updates the statute's wording to accommodate modern technology to allow for marriage license records to be kept in a marriage record book "**or an electronic record.**" It should be noted that the update gives the Clerks the option to record the records in a book and/or use an electronic record. Either process will maintain the records for historical purposes; and there are systems in place to ensure the records are secure. This includes being stored with the Maryland Division of Vital

Records and Maryland State Archives. This update is also in line with the Judiciary's efforts in its electronic case management system.

Our Association hopes you will vote favorably on both updates to the Family Law article and I look forward to answering any questions you may have. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.

Testimony SB0488 Poyer.pdf

Uploaded by: Poyer, Scott

Position: FAV

SB0488 Family Law - Marriage - Licenses and Records
Judicial Proceedings Committee – February 9, 2021
Sponsor: Senator Pamela Beidle
Position: Support

Testimony of Scott Poyer, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Anne Arundel County

Thank you, Chairman Smith and members of the committee, for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 488. For the record, my name is Scott Poyer, Clerk of the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County. My testimony today is on behalf of the Maryland Circuit Court Clerks' Association, which represents the elected Clerks of the Circuit Court in Maryland.

Our Clerk's Association supports SB 488 because it updates two sections of the Family Law Article related to marriage licenses and records. Specifically, with regard to the first update, Family Law section 2-403 - Forms of Licenses, currently requires the applicant for a marriage license to list the names of the **"husband and wife"** on the application form. In order to bring this section into conformance with the State of Maryland's Civil Marriage Protection Act of 2012, which allowed same sex marriages, SB 488 proposes to change the words **"husband and wife"** on the application form to **"Party 1 and Party 2"**. This change would also bring this form into conformance with all the other Judiciary forms related to marriage licenses, which simply list the names of the couple and do not require that one be designated as the husband and the other designated as the wife.

My colleague, Clerk Mahasin ElAmin, will discuss the second update in more detail.

Our Association hopes you will look favorably on both updates to the Family Law article proposed in SB 488. And we would like to thank Senator Beidle for sponsoring this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.