

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.