

HB0449 Family Law - Marriage - Licenses and Records
Judiciary Committee – February 4, 2021
Sponsor: Delegate J. Sandy Bartlett
Position: Support

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

Thank you Chairman Clippinger and members of the committee for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 449. 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 HB 449 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, HB 449 proposes to change the words "**husband and wife**" on the application form to "**Party 1 and Party 2**".

My colleague will discuss the second update in more detail.

Our Association hopes you will look favorably on both updates to the Family Law article. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.