

I am writing to show my support for HB 39: Action for Change of Name – Waiver of Publication Requirement.

As a parent of a young child who has required a legal name change I can personally attest to how cumbersome and antiquated this process was.

The reason for his name change is personal and private to the family, we put off going through the legal process for months because of this publication requirement. Ultimately, we recognized that it needed to be done before he entered kindergarten for safety reasons. However, the very safety reasons that we were hoping to obtain, are quickly taken away by having to either publish this name change in a newspaper (which comes with a digital record) or posting it at the Sherriff's Office.

We were able to obtain a waiver of publication from a Frederick County Judge, and for the next 30 days his old name and new name hung on a bulletin board just inside the entryway to the courthouse. As a family we hated the idea of complete strangers being able to see our personal family business, but we knew it would have been worse to have a permanent searchable record of it online.

I think the most frustrating part of the process is that both my Husband and I were working together to obtain this name change on behalf of our child. The time it took to wait for approval of the waiver, the amount of money it cost us to do so, and the increasing number of people that we had to deal with to accomplish this all felt like a very personal violation of our families privacy.

I would encourage you to pass this Bill, so that other individuals and families don't have to go through this very difficult and unnecessary process.

Sincerely,

Corrine Wilson

Frederick County