

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

Testimony of Mahasin El Amin, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Prince George’s 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 Mahasin El Amin, Clerk of the Circuit Court for Prince George’s 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.

As my colleague mentioned, 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 second update, Family Law section 2-501 Marriage License Book currently requires that each Clerk keep a “**marriage license book.**” While official marriage license records were kept in paper book format for many years, the transition to electronic records occurred many years ago. HB 449 updates the statute’s wording to accommodate modern technology by proposing to allow the records to be kept in a marriage record book “**or an electronic record.**”

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.