

HB0210

V. McAvoy

UNFAVORABLE

Dear Delegates,

I strongly urge you to vote unfavorably for HB0210..

I shudder to think that every marriage will be subject to dredging up criminal charges for the purposes of family law abuse every time there's a marital spat. People should be married in love & peace. And perhaps they should speak about criminal background prior to marriage. Maryland has CaseSearch for that.

Annapolis Judiciary Hearing rooms have for too long taken aim at the construct, privileges and sanctity of traditional marriage. This bill is would erode the societal benefit of marriage for the vacuous sake of prosecutorial laziness.

Is there cause for this bill? That is, are there many crimes left un-prosecuted because a spouse is effectively hiding evidence?

No. There are other means of obtaining evidence in marital cases. [Jack B. Johnson](#)

Jack B. Johnson

On May 17, 2011, Johnson pleaded guilty to extortion and witness- and evidence-tampering.[3] He served most of h...

Is there a climate in Maryland where spouses (particularly wives) are reluctant to approach the courts

No. Women file 80% of divorces.

<https://www.divorcesource.com/blog/why-women-file-80-percent-of-divorces/>

A larger question is why anyone would want to or could effectively *compel* **relevant** testimony. The sanctity of marriage & the respect for the marriage contract & the societal benefit of marital harmony are persistently under attack in Maryland.

Thankfully, as recently as last year, Senator [Carter, Jill P.](#) spoke up for extolling & preserving marital harmony during bill testimony.

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Thankfully, last year Senator [Washington, Mary](#) was prescient in noting that lobbyists from the Domestic Violence Industry (which receives 100's of thousands of dollars from the state and more from fed governments) would devise ways to inject volatility into

Maryland

families. http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgaweb/Committees/Media/false?cmte=jpr&ys=2019RS&clip=JPR_2_12_2019_meeting_1&url=http%3A%2F%2Fmgahouse.maryland.gov%2Fmga%2Fplay%2Fe857c1c3-5503-4334-8595-1341f3b34e23%2F%3Fcatalog%2F03e481c7-8a42-4438-a7da-93ff74bdaa4c%26playfrom%3D12441000

And thankfully, last year, Chairman Bobby Zirkin explained the depth of the background surrounding spousal privilege -- not just the history of spousal privilege in Maryland, not just that spousal privilege is respected at the Federal level. Spousal privilege is internationally respected.

HB210 would incentivize using the allegation of a crime of any kind - state or federal, actual or contrived, solved or unsolved - as a marital matter, ensnaring a presumably innocent person into a court appearance under the threat of contempt. Remember, this is not a voluntary submission-- this is the state wedging itself into a familial & lifetime bond for the purposes of a gathering (not a conviction) of mere evidence or testimony. There's no mandate to use said evidence or testimony for the case; so the result is wasted time, wasted testimony, unwarranted intrusion. But the State could force its way into the marital chamber.

And, though timeframe of the crime is mentioned in the bill, neither allegations of such crime nor scope of the allegations will be firmly respected once the investigation takes root amidst a married couple's personal life.

This is an intrusive bill and should be voted down.

Thank you for your time & attention to reducing false allegations, preserving family & eliminating the monetization of family discord.

Thank you for your votes & your consideration.

humbly

~vince