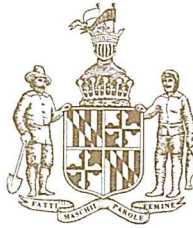


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Chair, Pensions

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TESTIMONY - SENATE BILL 133
FAMILY LAW – MARRIAGE CEREMONY –
DEPUTATION OF DEPUTY CLERK
JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS COMMITTEE
JANUARY 31, 2023

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Committee Members:

Senate Bill 133 is a very straightforward bill that simply allows for the deputization of Deputy Clerks of the Court to perform marriage ceremonies throughout Maryland.

This is a simple piece of legislation that merely allows for more efficiency in the offices of Clerks of the Court throughout our State. Elected Clerks of the Court in Maryland perform thousands of marriage ceremonies in Maryland each year. Local Clerks of the Court have a myriad of responsibilities in addition to performing marriage ceremonies and their schedules are often incredibly full. Allowing these elected officials to delegate some of their authority to their Deputy Clerks would provide them with the flexibility to more efficiently carry out their other duties and more efficiently serve the public.

Individuals wishing to be married in their local courthouse could be more effectively served if they didn't have to wait to schedule appointments with their elected Clerks but were instead allowed to be married by Deputy Clerks designated by their elected Clerks.

For the reasons listed above, I ask for a favorable report of Senate Bill 133.