

JUSTIN READY  
Legislative District 5  
Carroll County

Finance Committee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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**SB 355 – Family Law – Marriage License Application – Appearance in Court**

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee;

SB 355 requires *both* parties to appear before the court clerk to apply for a marriage license, as otherwise specified in statute. This bill was brought forward and is supported by the Maryland Circuit Court Clerks' Association, which represents the twenty-four elected Clerks of the Circuit Court in Maryland.

Under current law, only *one* of the parties to be married must appear before a court clerk and give, under oath, specified information that must be placed on the application form by the clerk.

SB 355 includes waivers for deployed military members, incarcerated individuals, hospitalized individuals, and other exemptions for good cause. These waivers were added into the bill's draft after concerns that the bill would set too high of a bar for marriage applicants.

I respectfully ask for a favorable committee report.