

SENATE BILL 216

D4

2lr0878
CF 2lr1646

By: **Senator Kelley**

Introduced and read first time: January 20, 2012

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Family Law – Marriage Licenses and Ceremonies**

3 FOR the purpose of repealing the requirement that a marriage license be issued by the
4 clerk for the county in which the marriage is performed; authorizing a clerk of
5 any county of the State to issue a marriage license; repealing the requirement
6 that a marriage license contain a statement that the license is valid only in the
7 county in which it is issued; making conforming changes; and generally relating
8 to marriage licenses and ceremonies in Maryland.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
10 Article – Family Law
11 Section 2–101
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2006 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
15 Article – Family Law
16 Section 2–401, 2–403(a), and 2–405(a)
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2006 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

19 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
20 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

21 **Article – Family Law**

22 2–101.

23 (a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (b) "Authorized official" means an individual authorized by the laws of this
2 State to perform a marriage ceremony.

3 (c) "Clerk" means a clerk of the circuit court for a county.

4 (d) "License" means a license to marry issued in this State.

5 2-401.

6 (a) An individual may not marry in this State without a license issued by
7 [the] A clerk [for the county in which the marriage is performed].

8 (b) Any individual who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and
9 on conviction is subject to a fine of \$100.

10 2-403.

11 (a) (1) A license shall read substantially as follows:

12 "State of Maryland and County of To any individual authorized by the
13 laws of this State to perform a marriage ceremony. You are hereby authorized to join
14 together in matrimony according to the rules and ceremonies of your church, society or
15 religious sect and the laws of this State, or according to the laws of this State, the
16 following individuals:

17
18 (state here name of intended husband)
19
20 (state here name of intended wife)

21 Given under my hand and seal of the Circuit Court for, this day of
22 (state here month and year)."

23 (2) A license shall contain:

24 (i) appropriate spaces in which the clerk shall enter:

25 1. the relationship of the parties to be married, if any;
26 and

27 2. as to each party, the name, age, state or foreign
28 country in which born, residence, and marital status (single, widowed, or divorced);
29 and

30 (ii) a statement that the license is valid only[:

31 1.] for 6 months from the effective date and time stated
32 on the license[; and

1 2. in the county in which it is issued].

2 2-405.

3 (a) [The] A clerk [for the county in which a marriage ceremony is to be
4 performed] may issue and deliver a license at the time the application is made.

5 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
6 October 1, 2012.