

HOUSE BILL 300

D4
HB 672/23 – JUD

4lr0857
CF SB 136

By: **Delegates Toles, Boaf, Embry, Harris, Lehman, Pasteur, Roberson, and Taylor**

Introduced and read first time: January 15, 2024

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Family Law – Marriage Ceremony – Designation of Deputy Clerk**

3 FOR the purpose of transferring, from the county administrative judge of the circuit court
4 for the county to the clerk of the circuit court for the county, the authority to
5 designate a deputy clerk to perform a marriage ceremony; and generally relating to
6 marriage ceremonies.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article – Family Law
9 Section 2–406(a)
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

14 **Article – Family Law**

15 2–406.

16 (a) (1) In this subsection, “judge” means:

17 (i) a judge of the District Court, a circuit court, the Appellate Court
18 of Maryland, or the Supreme Court of Maryland;

19 (ii) a judge approved under Article IV, § 3A of the Maryland
20 Constitution and § 1–302 of the Courts Article for recall and assignment to the District
21 Court, a circuit court, the Appellate Court of Maryland, or the Supreme Court of Maryland;

22 (iii) a judge of a United States District Court, a United States Court

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



of Appeals, or the United States Tax Court; or

(iv) a judge of a state court if the judge is active or retired but eligible for recall.

(2) A marriage ceremony may be performed in this State by:

(i) any official of a religious order or body authorized by the rules and customs of that order or body to perform a marriage ceremony;

(ii) any clerk;

(iii) any deputy clerk designated by the [county administrative judge] **CLERK** of the circuit court for the county; or

(iv) a judge.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2024.