

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 355 (Senator Ready)
Judicial Proceedings

Family Law - Marriage License Applications - Appearance in Court

This bill requires *both* parties to appear before the court clerk to apply for a marriage license, as otherwise specified in statute.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not materially impact the operations or finances of the Judiciary.

Local Effect: The bill does not materially impact the operations or finances of the circuit courts.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Statute establishes certain procedures for individuals seeking to obtain a marriage license. In order to apply for a marriage license, *one* of the parties to be married must:

- appear before a court clerk and give, under oath, specified information that must be placed on an application form by the clerk, including (1) the full name of each party; (2) the place of residence of each party; and (3) the date of birth of each party;
- sign the application form; and
- provide the clerk with the Social Security Number of each party who has one and a copy of an official government-issued birth certificate or other official government-issued document or record demonstrating the age of each party.

If the parties to be married are not residents of the county where the marriage ceremony is to be performed, the clerk must accept, instead of the application described above, an affidavit from one of the parties to be married, as otherwise specified in statute.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: HB 95 (Delegate Simmons) - Judiciary.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 3, 2026
sj/jkb

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