

SENATE, No. 1012

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 30, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator LORETTA WEINBERG

District 37 (Bergen)

Senator ANTHONY M. BUCCO

District 25 (Morris and Somerset)

SYNOPSIS

Revises State marriage license application form to permit certain changes in middle name and surname.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/10/2020)

1 (3) a name combining all or a segment of the premarriage
2 surname or any former surname of each spouse into a single
3 surname;

4 (4) a combination name separated by a hyphen, provided that
5 each part of such combination surname is the premarriage surname,
6 or any former surname, of each of the spouses; or

7 (5) the premarriage surname of a spouse as the spouse's middle
8 name, followed by the surname of the other spouse as the new
9 surname.

10 The application form would include language instructing the
11 applicants that neither party to the marriage is required to change
12 his or her surname, and that applicants who do change their middle
13 name or surname should contact their local Social Security
14 Administration, so that its records and the applicant's Social
15 Security identification card can be updated to reflect the name
16 change.

17 This bill is intended to streamline the process for newly married
18 persons who wish to change either their middle name or surname as
19 a result of their marriage. There is currently no option to do this as
20 part of the marriage certificate application process, leaving the
21 prospective applicant to navigate a difficult process of changing
22 one's names with a local Social Security or Motor Vehicle
23 Commission office, which may or may not be accommodating, or
24 paying to have the names changed in court. It is hoped that by
25 offering this option as part of the marriage certificate application
26 process, other State offices will reciprocate and permit changes of
27 both middle and surname after marriage consistently and without
28 fee or penalty.