

## STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND NINETEEN

H.P. 9 - L.D. 8

**An Act To Allow and Recognize a Legal Name Change upon Marriage****Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

**Sec. 1. 19-A MRSA §651, sub-§2**, as repealed and replaced by PL 2013, c. 424, Pt. B, §5, is amended to read:

**2. Application.** The parties wishing to record notice of their intentions of marriage shall submit an application for recording notice of their intentions of marriage. The application may be issued to any 2 persons otherwise qualified under this chapter regardless of the sex of each person and must include the names of both parties. If a party intends to change that party's name upon marriage, the application must include the proposed new name of that party. The application must include a signed certification that the information recorded on the application is correct and that the applicant is free to marry according to the laws of this State. The applicant's signature must be acknowledged before an official authorized to take oaths. An application recording notice of intention to marry is not open for public inspection for 50 years from the date of the application except that:

A. The names of the parties for whom intentions to marry are filed and the intended date of marriage are public records and open for public inspection; and

B. A person with a researcher identification card under Title 22, section 2706, subsection 8 is permitted to inspect records and may be issued a noncertified copy of an application.

**Sec. 2. 19-A MRSA §654, sub-§3**, as amended by PL 2011, c. 111, §1, is further amended to read:

**3. Statement including officiant and witnesses.** The marriage license returned must contain a statement giving the names of the parties united in marriage, place and date of the marriage, the new name of either party if either party intends to change that party's name, the signature of the person by whom the marriage was solemnized and the names of the 2 witnesses. The person who solemnized the marriage shall add the title of

the office by virtue of which the marriage was solemnized, the residence of the person who solemnized the marriage and:

- A. The date ordained or authorized by a religious faith to perform marriages;
- B. The date the notary public's commission expires;
- C. The date the lawyer was admitted to the Maine Bar; or
- D. The date the person's temporary registration certificate was issued under section 655, subsection 1-A.

**Sec. 3. 19-A MRSA §656, sub-§3** is enacted to read:

**3. Name change.** If the marriage license indicates that a party intends to change that party's name under section 654, subsection 3, the new name indicated on the license becomes effective upon completion of the marriage license pursuant to subsection 2.

**Sec. 4. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF  
Data, Research and Vital Statistics Z037**

Initiative: Provides a one-time allocation for updates to the marriage license and marriage certificate forms in the online vital records ordering system.

<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>
All Other	\$51,643	\$0
<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL</b>	<b>\$51,643</b>	<b>\$0</b>