

## **RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND CIVIL MARRIAGE PROTECTION ACT**

Article - Family Law

§2-201.

(A) Only a marriage between [a man and a woman] TWO PEOPLE, NOT OTHERWISE PROHIBITED FROM MARRYING, is valid in this State.

(B) THIS SECTION MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED TO INVALIDATE OTHER SECTIONS IN THIS TITLE

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, THAT NO OFFICIAL OF A RELIGIOUS INSTITUTION OR BODY AUTHORIZED TO SOLEMNIZE MARRIAGES SHALL BE REQUIRED TO SOLEMNIZE ANY MARRIAGE IN VIOLATION OF THE RIGHT TO FREE EXERCISE OF RELIGION GUARANTEED BY THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION AND BY THE MARYLAND CONSTITUTION AND MARYLAND DECLARATION OF RIGHTS.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, THAT THIS ACT SHALL TAKE EFFECT OCTOBER 1, 2008.