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## Delegate Holds Marriage Bill Hostage Over Pet Projects

Posted By [Bridgette P. LaVictoire](#) On March 1, 2011 @ 8:59 pm In [Featured](#), [LGBT Rights](#), [News](#), [Politics](#) | [No Comments](#)

03/01/11-by Bridgette P. LaVictoire



<sup>[1]</sup>The Republicans in Maryland are trying to spin the delays with regards to the marriage equality bill including claiming that the people of Maryland do not support the measure, probably clinging desperately to the poll put out by the bigoted group the National Organization for Marriage showing high opposition to marriage equality. Their poll was done by a little know, Mormon headed firm, which throws doubt on their entire proceedings. The Republicans are complaining because of the fact that the House Judiciary Committee did not vote on the bill this evening because some Delegates want more time to think.

The thinking comes as some Delegates are saying that they wanted to withhold support in order to draw attention to unrelated issues such as education funding and other family law bills. Chairman Joseph F. Vallario has stated that he will assess the situation tomorrow and decide how to proceed.

[Part of it is that some Delegates, such as Jill Carter,](#) <sup>[2]</sup>want to consider other issues such as a child custody bill and education funding before dealing with marriage equality. Carter is one of two Delegates who support marriage equality who walked out of the committee this morning during the specially scheduled vote on the marriage proposal, thus delaying further consideration on issues that are vitally important to her.

She claims that there are "more important, or at least equally important" issues that she wants fast-tracked in the way that she feels marriage equality has been. At issue for her are the restoration of education funding for Baltimore and Prince George's County, which Governor Martin O'Malley has cut, and her own bill to provide a presumption of joint custody to divorcing couples.

She did not mince words about the fact that this was about getting votes for her pet issues despite the lack of importance for both. As she has pointed out, the session is only about half over, and they are in the first year of a four year term. She is the critical vote on the bill to move it forward to the House for full debate, but her snit is in relation to issues which are not entirely vital for consideration. Budgets rarely get voted on quickly, and the presumption of joint custody in a divorce is probably not going to be overly controversial.

She plans on not voting for anything until the House leadership appeases her. She is likely to turn blue in the face at some point and pass out from lack of oxygen.

Of course, the probability that the battle will not be over any time soon is pretty much 100% as opponents to marriage equality plan on forcing the issue in a ballot initiative. Republican state Senator Nancy Jacobs wears her homophobia on her sleeve and stated "I don't think the votes on that board accurately represent the citizens of the state of Maryland. think the vote on referendum in 2012 will be the vote of the people and I think this deserves to go to the people, and I'm sure it will."

Of course, people got to vote for misogyny, and to take away the rights of Blacks, Asians, Hispanics, and Women in the United States, correct? Perhaps I missed the public votes on the Civil Rights Act of 1964 in my history classes.

[According to Metro Weekly:](#) <sup>[3]</sup>

"It's an advance determination of sufficiency, of the language and format of the petition," Duncan says of that review process.

"The total number of signatures necessary for statewide referendum is 55,736," Duncan says, adding that one-third of those signatures must be submitted to John P. McDonough (D), Maryland's Secretary of State, by 11:59 p.m. on May 31.

"The remaining two-thirds, must be submitted to the Secretary of State, 11:59 p.m., on June 30, in the year in which the legislation is passed," she adds.

"It has to happen in the year the legislation has passed, even though it wouldn't appear until the 2012 election."

Duncan says if the petition — which states: "We, the undersigned voters, hereby petition to refer the bill identified below to a vote of the registered voters of Maryland for approval or rejection at the next general election" — is successful it would be referred to the 2012 November General Election Ballot, Maryland's next statewide election.

"Anybody could challenge the petition effort with a lawsuit," Duncan says, "which often happens."

Sen. Jamie Raskin (D-Montgomery), co-author of the marriage bill, may be up for that challenge. After passage of the marriage bill on the Senate floor, he told Metro Weekly that if the marriage law does go to referendum, "then we'll run it like a campaign."

"We will be the first state in America where same-sex marriage wins on the ballot."

The Maryland State Board of Elections notes that materials, including the Statewide Referendum Petition, are currently being revised.

"There's some debate on how a signature and information of the voter must be placed on the petition," Duncan says. "So there were several court decisions that somewhat counter each other in how the information from the voter has to appear, and we are still awaiting further instruction from the Court of Appeals on that issue."

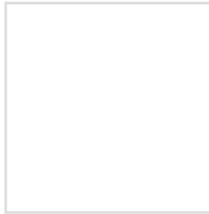
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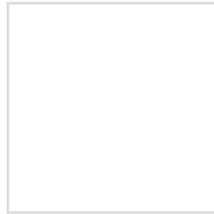


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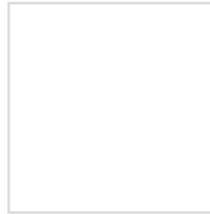
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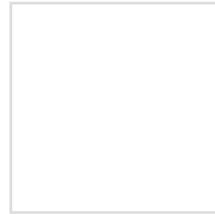
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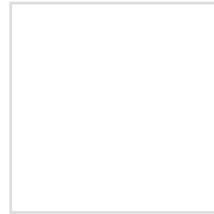
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[3] According to Metro Weekly:: <http://metroweekly.com/poliglot/2011/02/maryland-marriage-referendum.html>

[4] Image: <http://www.zemanta.com/>

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