

Bill as Introduced

SB 201 - AS INTRODUCED

2014 SESSION

14-2593
05/03

SENATE BILL **201**

AN ACT relative to marriage registration forms.

SPONSORS: Sen. Larsen, Dist 15; Sen. Fuller Clark, Dist 21; Sen. Gilmour, Dist 12;
Sen. Lasky, Dist 13; Sen. D'Allesandro, Dist 20; Sen. Soucy, Dist 18; Sen. Watters,
Dist 4; Sen. Pierce, Dist 5; Sen. Hosmer, Dist 7; Sen. Woodburn, Dist 1;
Sen. Stiles, Dist 24; Sen. Carson, Dist 14; Rep. Weber, Ches 1; Rep. Bouchard,
Merr 18; Rep. Kaen, Straf 5

COMMITTEE: Judiciary

ANALYSIS

This bill provides that, upon marriage, either person may retain his or her surname prior to marriage, take the surname of the other party, or hyphenate the surnames of both parties. A person who takes the other party's surname also may change his or her middle name to his or her surname prior to marriage.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in *bold italics*.
Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struckthrough.~~]
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Fourteen

AN ACT relative to marriage registration forms.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 New Paragraph; Marriage Registration Forms; Name Change. Amend RSA 5-C:41 by
2 inserting after paragraph II the following new paragraph:

3 II-a.(a) Upon entering into marriage, either party may retain the party's surname prior to
4 the marriage or change the party's surname to the surname of the other party or to a hyphenated
5 combination of the surnames of both parties. If a party requests a surname change under this
6 paragraph, that party may also change the party's middle name to the party's surname prior to the
7 marriage. Each party shall indicate on the marriage application worksheet the party's name after
8 marriage.

9 (b) Provided that the change is not made for a fraudulent criminal or wrongful purpose,
10 the name of each party after marriage as indicated on the marriage application worksheet and
11 marriage license shall become the sole legal name of each party after marriage. If a party indicates a
12 name change other than as described in subparagraph (a), the party shall request approval of the
13 court.

14 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2015.

SB 201 - AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

02/19/14 0557s

2014 SESSION

14-2593
05/03

SENATE BILL **201**

AN ACT relative to marriage registration forms.

SPONSORS: Sen. Larsen, Dist 15; Sen. Fuller Clark, Dist 21; Sen. Gilmour, Dist 12; Sen. Lasky, Dist 13; Sen. D'Allesandro, Dist 20; Sen. Soucy, Dist 18; Sen. Watters, Dist 4; Sen. Pierce, Dist 5; Sen. Hosmer, Dist 7; Sen. Woodburn, Dist 1; Sen. Stiles, Dist 24; Sen. Carson, Dist 14; Rep. Weber, Ches 1; Rep. Bouchard, Merr 18; Rep. Kaen, Straf 5

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5 hyphenated combination of the full surnames of both parties. If a party requests a surname change
6 under this paragraph, that party may also change his or her middle name to his or her surname
7 prior to the marriage. Each party shall indicate on the marriage application worksheet the party's
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12 name change other than as described in subparagraph (a), the party shall request approval of the
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Amendments

Sen. Carson, Dist. 14
February 12, 2014
2014-0533s
05/03

Amendment to SB 201

1 Amend RSA 5-C:41, II-a(a) as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

2

3 (a) Upon entering into marriage, either party may retain his or her surname prior to the
4 marriage or change his or her surname to the surname of the other party or change the surname to a
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6 under this paragraph, that party may also change his or her middle name to his or her surname
7 prior to the marriage. Each party shall indicate on the marriage application worksheet the party's
8 name after marriage.

Committee Minutes

AMENDED
SENATE CALENDAR NOTICE
JUDICIARY

Printed: 02/04/2014 at 2:46 pm

Senator Sharon Carson Chairman
Senator Bette Lasky V Chairman
Senator David Boutin
Senator Sam Cataldo
Senator Donna Soucy

For Use by Senate Clerk's Office ONLY	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bill Status
<input type="checkbox"/>	Docket
<input type="checkbox"/>	Calendar
Proof: <input type="checkbox"/>	Calendar <input type="checkbox"/>
	Bill Status

Date: February 4, 2014

HEARINGS

Tuesday

2/11/2014

JUDICIARY

SH 100

9:00 AM

(Name of Committee)

(Place)

(Time)

EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY FOLLOW

Comments: PLEASE NOTE THAT SB 394 HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 11TH BUT HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 18TH. This calendar notice adds hearings for SB 373 and SB 389.

✓ 9:00 AM	SB201	relative to marriage registration forms.
9:15 AM	SB390	relative to protection of employees who are victims of domestic abuse, sexual assault, stalking, or criminal harassment.
9:45 AM	SB209	expanding the good samaritan law to engineers and architects.
10:15 AM	SB373-FN	relative to procedure and jurisdiction of the superior courts.
10:30 AM	SB389	relative to the enforcement authority of fish and game officers.
10:45 AM	SB352	relative to equity jurisdiction of the judicial branch family division.

Sponsors:

Susan Duncan 271-3076

Sen. Sharon Carson

Chairman

AMENDED
SENATE CALENDAR NOTICE
JUDICIARY

Printed: 02/04/2014 at 2:46 pm

Senator Sharon Carson Chairman
Senator Bette Lasky V Chairman
Senator David Boutin
Senator Sam Cataldo
Senator Donna Soucy

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SB201

Sen. Sylvia Larsen
Sen. Lou D'Allesandro
Sen. Andrew Hosmer
Rep. Lucy Weber

Sen. Martha Fuller Clark
Sen. Donna Soucy
Sen. Jeff Woodburn
Rep. Candace Bouchard

Sen. Peggy Gilmour
Sen. David Watters
Sen. Nancy Stiles
Rep. Naida Kaen

Sen. Bette Lasky
Sen. David Pierce
Sen. Sharon Carson

SB390

Sen. Andrew Hosmer
Sen. Donna Soucy

Sen. David Pierce
Sen. Molly Kelly

Sen. Jeff Woodburn
Sen. Lou D'Allesandro

Sen. Bette Lasky
Rep. David Huot

SB209

Sen. Peggy Gilmour
Rep. Paul Hackel

Sen. Jeanie Forrester
Rep. Paul Berch

Sen. Martha Fuller Clark
Rep. Gary Hopper

Sen. David Watters

SB373-FN

Sen. Sharon Carson
Rep. Marjorie Smith

Sen. David Boutin
Rep. Robert Rowe

Sen. Sam Cataldo
Sen. Donna Soucy

Sen. Bette Lasky

SB389

Sen. Jeff Woodburn
Rep. Herbert Richardson

Rep. David Karrick

Rep. Suzanne Smith

Rep. Robert Theberge

SB352

Sen. Sam Cataldo

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Susan Duncan, Senior Legislative Aide

SB 201 – relative to marriage registration forms.

Hearing Date: February 11, 2014

Time Opened: 9:04 a.m.

Time Closed: 9:34 a.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Carson, Lasky, Boutin, Cataldo

Members of the Committee Absent: Senator Soucy

Bill Analysis: This bill provides that, upon marriage, either person may retain his or her surname prior to marriage, take the surname of the other party, or hyphenate the surnames of both parties. A person who takes the other party's surname also may change his or her middle name to his or her surname prior to marriage.

Sponsors: Senator Larsen with Senators Fuller Clark, Gilmour, Lasky, D'Allesandro, Soucy, Watters, Pierce, Hosmer, Woodburn, Stiles and Carson; Representatives Weber, Bouchard and Kaen

Who supports the bill: Senators Carson, Soucy, Watters, Pierce, Fuller Clark, Stiles, Woodburn, Hosmer, D'Allesandro, Gilmour and Lasky; Amelia Curti; Wayne Goertel; Bill Joseph on behalf of DMV; Stephen Wurtz on behalf of the Department of State, DVRA;

Who opposes the bill: No one

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Senator Larsen

Introduced the legislation by explaining that the bill provides that upon marriage that either person may retain their surname, take the other person's surname or hyphenate their surnames. She said that this would make it much easier for individuals to establish their "new" names upon marriage. Right now, the clerks, based on legal advice they were given, are requiring that folks use their first name and middle name given at birth and if they wish to instead use their birth surname, then they must go to Probate Court (for a \$110 filing fee) to get their name legally changed. Because of this, some have just given up on keeping their birth surnames. This legislation would enable marrying couples on their marriage application worksheet to indicate what names they wish to have following the marriage. If a person wished to do any other changes to their name (other than the ones specifically spelled out in the bill), they can still go to Probate Court. She said that this would streamline the process and make it easier. She explained that this is modeled after successful law in Oregon – and that it has no cultural bias in the way it's written. Senator Cataldo asked about a woman keeping her maiden name. Senator

Larsen responded that for many people, this is their identity and they do not wish to lose it. In response to a follow up question, Senator Larsen acknowledged that laws were different years ago – and that perhaps some of these changes happened following 9-11. She said that actually, security is better served by enabling people to keep their surnames.

Stephen Wurtz (State Registrar of Vital Records)

Testified in support and explained that tradition has been that the woman took the man's surname – but that tradition is different today. He said that they have had several instances where the "groom" took the "bride's" surname. He said that with this, each person can declare what they will be called after the marriage. This bill allows them to ask the question on the worksheet and allows the couple to state "this is who we will be known as" following the ceremony. Attorney Lehmann asked how hyphenated names will be handled. Mr. Wurtz responded that the hyphenated name together is the surname. Senator Lasky asked what happens in cases of the death of a spouse and in a divorce. Mr. Wurtz responded that in divorce, it is already taken care of in that process but that in the case of a death, if the person wishes to change their name they would go through the Probate process. Senator Carson asked about the obligation to go to DMV and have other documents changed. Mr. Wurtz responded that yes, this is the intention. Senator Carson asked if there is a problem with folks having multiple names. Mr. Wurtz responded that this is far more than is covered in this legislation.

Bill Joseph, Deputy Director, DMV

Testified in support and that this would make it easier for both their staff and for their customers. They are in support.

Wayne Goertel

Provided written testimony and went into detail on his own experience. He explained that when he and his wife were married, his wife wanted to preserve her maiden name. He said that they had no problems at all with Social Security – but that DMV denied their request, telling them that they were not allowed to change anything at all. When he asked what this was based upon (statute or administrative rule), they could provide no documentation at all. He said that following New Hampshire's adoption of the Civil Union legislation, the Social Security Administration reviewed New Hampshire's practices. He forwarded a copy of his research to Richard Bailey at DMV but he never heard anything back. However, when his wife provided her passport with that name indicated, they then made the name change. He contended that DMV has been enforcing an unwritten policy. He said that he's excited to see this bill and that it makes total sense to be able to make these changes at the time of marriage.

Amelia Curti

Provided written testimony and said that when she married, she had assumed she could address keeping her maiden name (Larsen) at the City Clerk's. They told her that her only option was to go to Probate Court (\$110). She explained that it was very important to her to keep her surname and that the local Social Security office had denied her request. She solicited the assistance of U. S. Senator Jeanne Shaheen's office who had the federal Social Security office reach out to educate the NH office that this is permissible.

Summary of testimony presented in opposition:

None

Fiscal Note: None

Action: The bill was taken under advisement.

Speakers

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Date: February 11, 2014 Time: 9:00 a.m. Public Hearing on SB 201

SB 201 - relative to marriage registration forms.

Please check box(es) that apply:

	SPEAKING FAVOR	OPPOSED	NAME (Please print)	REPRESENTING
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Sen Donna Souza	JD # 18
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Sen. Watters	Dist 4
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Sen. Pierce	Dist 5
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Sen. M. Fuller Clark	Dist. 21
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Senator Nancy Still	Dist - 24
###	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> SENATOR Sylvia Larsen	Dist. 15
-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Amelia Curti	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Senator Woodburn	Dist 01
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Senator Harmer	Dist 07
#####	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Wayne Covertel	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Sen. D'Allesandro	
###	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Bill JOSEPH	DMV
###	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Stephen WURTZ	Dept of State DVRA
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Sen Peggy Gilmore	JD # 12
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Sen Lasley	JD # 13
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Testimony

SB 201

Wayne Goertel
Meredith Pellenz Goertel
33 Park Lane
Hooksett, NH 03106

NH Senate Judiciary Committee
State House
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

February 11, 2014

Dear Senate Judiciary Committee Members,

We are writing to provide our support for SB 201, to resolve problems that many New Hampshire residents experience with the New Hampshire Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) not recognizing common name changes occurring at time of marriage.

My wife Meredith and I were married in September, 2012, and we received our New Hampshire marriage license a few days thereafter. Meredith changed her name from **Meredith Leigh Pellenz** to **Meredith Pellenz Goertel**, replacing her middle name with her maiden name to preserve it, and taking my family name as her new family name.

It was a bit puzzling to us at the time that our marriage license application didn't have a location to specify changes of name. Nonetheless, our NH marriage license was sufficient documentation for her to convey this change to the US Social Security Administration (SSA), her first step to update various official records with her name change.

Unfortunately, Meredith was unable to update her name at the DMV in Concord, even with her NH marriage license in hand and a completed DMV Record Change Request form (DSMV 30, Rev 05/12), and despite having already made the same change at Social Security. Specifically, we were told by DMV staff that Meredith could only change her last name at the DMV with a NH marriage license, but not her middle name. We were told it was necessary for her to obtain a name change via NH Probate Court for the DMV to recognize a change to her middle name.

When we pressed the clerk on her assertion, she could not produce or direct us to any written documentation to corroborate this claim, and requested the aid of a manager. The manager likewise didn't produce documentation. He then advised us to change only Meredith's **last** name at the DMV -- which would have resulted in **Meredith Leigh Goertel**, not her correct new name -- or to first seek a name change via Probate Court.

We later learned that, had we followed this DMV manager's errant advice to change just her last name, we would have actually created different federal and state identities because of the varying middle names. Completing a name change petition through NH Probate Court was an additional \$90 expense (now \$110), and required additional effort and delay because of visits to probate court to file and later appear before a judge.

The DMV web site states "Any New Hampshire driver who changes his or her name is required by law (RSA 263:9) to submit written notification to the DMV within 10 days." NH Administrative Rule Saf-C 511.08 Change of Name simply indicated form DSMV-30 would require the former and new names, date of birth, signature, and one of six documents as evidence of the new name. But our experience was that the DMV was acting without authority as an agency to actually deny permitted name changes. **We could find no statute, rule, or reference corroborating the assertions of the DMV that there were different documentation requirements for different types of name changes.**

In our research, we found the Social Security Administration review of NH law regarding name changes, completed in 2007 after NH changes regarding civil unions. Interestingly, their policy analysis for NH name changes brings documentation requirements entirely into question.

"New Hampshire follows the common law with respect to name changes, under which a person may lawfully change his or her name without resort to any legal proceedings where such a change is not made for a fraudulent, criminal or wrongful purpose. *Moskowitz v. Moskowitz*, 385 A.2d 120, 122 (N.H. 1978).

...

"We could find no New Hampshire legal authority requiring that an individual take additional action other than usage to change his or her name.

We depicted our experience and research results in a letter to NH DMV Director Richard C. Bailey, Jr. A week or two later I received a call from DMV staff indicating they were looking into the issue, but we heard nothing from them ever again on this topic.

We decided to obtain legal assistance from Devine Millimet. We were advised to request a US passport for Meredith, using her correct new name, which we obtained without issue. With solely the US passport in hand, no marriage certificate, the DMV subsequently updated their records to match Meredith's name as we originally requested and issued her an updated driver's license. The DMV web site excludes "passport" as an accepted document, despite being specified in NH rules Saf-C 511.08.

Talking with friends and family, we learned this was a common NH-specific injustice. Several women had wanted to make this kind of name change, but were forced into a last-name only change by the DMV because they didn't want to undertake the hassle and cost of probate court. One pressed a DMV supervisor who could not provide any documentation; the supervisor insisted in their training they were told this was against policy, and ultimately conceded that she was enforcing an *unwritten* policy. This friend changed her name at probate court after paying the filing fee.

We reasonably infer that thousands, if not tens of thousands, of NH women have been rejected from making their desired name upon marriage, by the DMV enforcing an "unwritten policy". How many tens of thousands of dollars have unnecessarily been paid to Probate Courts to reaffirm legally allowed name changes not recognized by the DMV?

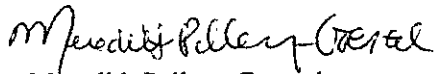
Regarding SB201, we welcome the idea that applications for marriage license are amended to specify intended names after marriage. It would provide useful documentation, and consolidate these details at time of marriage. We understand the language iterating a number of allowable permutations of name change is to be in compliance with federal guidelines for name changes at time of marriage.

We appreciate your time, please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wayne Goertel", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Wayne Goertel

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Meredith Pellenz Goertel", written in a cursive style.

Meredith Pellenz Goertel

Attachments:

1. NH DMV web site, Name Change
2. New Hampshire Code of Administrative Rules; Saf-C 511.08, Change of Name
3. SSA PR 08-043, Use of New Hampshire Civil Union Documents as Name Change Documents

<http://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/dmv/driver-licensing/update-personal-information/name-change.htm>
Driver Licensing > Record Change Request > Name Change

Any New Hampshire driver who changes his or her name is required by law (RSA 263:9) to submit written notification to the DMV within 10 days. Appear in person at any DMV office with the following:

1. A completed and signed Record Change Request Adobe Acrobat Reader Symbol.
2. Your current New Hampshire Driver License.
3. Legal documentation of the name change, such as:
 - o Marriage certificate.
 - o Divorce decree.
 - o Adoption decree.
 - o Name change petition from the court of Probate.
 - o Other court decree authorizing a legal name change.

[Note that "Passport" is missing]

http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rules/state_agencies/saf-c500.html

Saf-C 511.08 Change of Name.

(a) Whenever a registrant, other than a corporation, alters his/her name, the registrant shall furnish the following on form DSMV-30:

- (1) Date of birth;
- (2) Former name;
- (3) New name; and
- (4) Signature of the registrant.

(b) As evidence of a new name, a registrant shall:

- (1) Present a copy of one of the following:
 - a. Name change petition from the court of Probate;
 - b. Marriage certificate;
 - c. Divorce decree;
 - d. Passport;**
 - e. Adoption decree; or
 - f. Court decree.

Source. #7972, eff 10-17-03 (See Revision Note at chapter heading for Saf-C 500); ss by #9995, INTERIM, eff 9-17-11, EXPIRED: 3-15-12

New. #10135, eff 5-23-12

<https://secure.ssa.gov/apps10/poms.nsf/links/1502705032>

Analysis

New Hampshire follows the common law with respect to name changes, under which a person may lawfully change his or her name without resort to any legal proceedings where such a change is not made for a fraudulent, criminal or wrongful purpose. *Moskowitz v. Moskowitz*, 385 A.2d 120, 122 (N.H. 1978).

...

Under common law, a name change is effectuated simply by use of the new name. 57 Am. Jur. 2d Name § 16 (2007); *Corpus Juris Secundum*, vol. 65, § 21 (2000).

Thus, any document showing use of the new name could conceivably serve as an indication that a name change has occurred. See, e.g., N.H. CODE ADMIN. R. ANN. Saf-C 511.08(b) (2007) (name change petition, marriage certificate, divorce decree, passport, adoption decree, court decree or notarized statement for New Hampshire driver's license); N.H. CODE ADMIN. R. ANN. Den 301.07 (2007) ("copy of the documentation that legally changed the name, if any" for New Hampshire Board of Dental Examiners). While an individual may petition the court for a name change under N.H. REV. STAT. ANN. § 547:3-I (2007) (name change generally) or N.H. REV. STAT. ANN. § 490-D:2, X (2007) (name change relative to a family court matter), such a petition is not necessary under New Hampshire law. We could find no New Hampshire legal authority requiring that an individual take additional action other than usage to change his or her name.

Good morning Senators,

My name is Amelia and I am honored to be here today.

This past summer I was thrilled to be married here in New Hampshire. My husband and I made sure to go through all the necessary steps prior to getting married, most importantly making a visit to the City Clerk's office to fill out our marriage license application.

The license paperwork asked for a number of key data elements including our current names, addresses, date of births, and the like. At the time I thought it was odd that the paperwork did not ask for what I wanted my future middle and surname to become following marriage.

On that day due to the ambiguity in the paperwork I assumed that the issue could be addressed by the City Clerk's office after the ceremony.

Following our wedding I went to pick up our license from the City Clerk with hopes that I could then change my name as desired. At that point I was instructed that in order to keep my maiden name, Larsen, as my future middle name and adopt my husband's last name as my own that I had to go to court to file for a name change before a probate judge which carries an associated fee of \$110.

Further the City Clerk instructed me that if I didn't want to go to court, my only immediate option was simply to keep my middle name from birth and drop my surname to add my husband's surname. This is not what I desired.

So, I chose to file what I later discovered to be unnecessary paperwork in Circuit Court in hopes of executing my desired name change. It was really important to me keep my surname because it means a lot to me, it's part of who I am.

Meanwhile our local Social Security office also denied my request for a name change, stating that it was their understanding that I had to go to circuit court to effectuate my desired name change.

What's more the DMV also relies in part on the marriage license to accept a name change.

Finally, feeling frustrated I solicited the help of US Senator Shaheen's office who on behalf of her constituent successfully encouraged the Boston Social Security office to educate our local officials in Concord of federal rules pertaining to name changes. As it turns out the current federal rules do not preclude newlyweds from changing their names.

All of this could have been avoided had the form in the City Clerk's office been more clear and provide

an opportunity for individuals to select their desired name upon marriage.

Newlyweds and the fine civil employees across New Hampshire are unnecessarily confused by the ambiguous nature of current marriage license forms. I hope that my story and that of others encourages you to make the necessary adjustments to this paperwork.

Specifically we request that you consider approving Senate Bill 201.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Amelia Larsen Curti (Finally!)

Dear Senate committee members,

I would like to have the time to tell you my story in regards to name change. My name is Rebecca Adams Lovell, I am 35 years old and live in Concord, NH. When I got married on April 19, 2013, I knew that I wanted to drop my middle name and replace it with my maiden name. I never liked the hyphenated names, and I wanted to take my husband's last name Lovell as my own. However, I have been known throughout my working career as Adams. Therefore moving my maiden name to my middle name and taking my husband's last name made sense.

Having never changed my name I thought my first stop was suppose to be Dpartment of Motor Vehicles (DMV). After waiting more then an hour for my turn at DMV, I very excitedly handed over my form and marriage license. At which point I was told that I could not have my middle name changed unless I went through probate court and did I really want to spend an additional \$100 to have that done? At which point, I kindly asked if I could at least have the middle initial removed from my license. I was again promptly told no, and that I would need to go to probate to have that done too. I was crushed and angered by the entire process, not to mention my new license did NOT have the name I wanted on it.

My next step was the social security office. Social security also informed me that I needed to go through probate court in order to have my name changed the way I wanted. Funny thing was, there was absolutely no mention of middle names on the social security website. As far as the website directions for changing your name, you only needed a marriage license to change your last name. As far as social security's website was concerned people didn't have middle names.

My next stop was information on name change with the Merrimack county probate court office. Everything I read on the Merrimack county probate court website indicated that once your name was changed you were required to notify the town of your name change so that they could change your name on your birth certificate. To say I was frustrated really doesn't even discribe what I was feeling at the time. In fact anything to do with changing my name would bring tears to my eyes.

I just shelved the whole name changing for a while. I was still too emotionally raw to deal with any of it anymore. The month of August arrived, and I needed to pay my car registration at Concord City Hall. While at City Hall, I stopped into the City Clerks office, to see what documention I would need to change my name for voter registration. There I am told to contact Senator Larsen's office, and that what Social Security told me was incorrect. Yes DMV has a rule in regards to name change, but that you can get around that with a US Passport with the correct name.

Following the advice from Senator Larsen's office, I was able to get Social Security to change my name from Rebecca Lynn Adams to Rebecca Adams Lovell. Once I got my new Social Security Card in the mail, I then moved on to changing my US Passport. The Passport office only required me to fill out a name change form and submit my marriage

license. A few weeks later I received my new US Passport with my new name on it. Now I am getting excited again!

I take my new US Passport and head to DMV again. This time the clerk at DMV tell me that she can not change my license to match my passport, because I got my license first. Excuse me? Since when does NH DMV trump the US Department of State. Needless to say after a little pushing and getting managers involved, my license now reflects the same name that is on my US Passport.

I feel that the DMV rule for name change needs to reflect what the federal government requires. The entire process took a lot of time and effort. It is not difficult to follow the paper trail if a woman wants to change her name the way I did. All DMV should require is a marriage license as the federal government does.

Committee Report

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
SENATE
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
FOR THE CONSENT CALENDAR

Date: February 13, 2014

THE COMMITTEE ON Judiciary
to which was referred Senate Bill 201

AN ACT relative to marriage registration forms.

Having considered the same, the committee recommends that the Bill:

OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT

BY A VOTE OF: 5 - 0

AMENDMENT # 0557s

CONSENT CALENDAR VOTE: 5 - 0

Senator Bette Lasky for the Committee

The bill provides that upon marriage either person may retain his or her surname prior to marriage, take the surname of the other party, or hyphenate the full surnames of both parties. The name the individuals wish to go by after marriage would be indicated on the marriage application worksheet.

Susan Duncan 271-3076

New Hampshire General Court - Bill Status System

Docket of SB201

Docket Abbreviations

Bill Title: relative to marriage registration forms.*Official Docket of SB201:*

Date	Body	Description
12/11/2013	S	Introduced 1/8/2014 and Referred to Judiciary
1/29/2014	S	Hearing: 2/11/14, Room 100, SH, 9:30 a.m.; SC5
2/4/2014	S	Hearing: === TIME CHANGE === 2/11/14, Room 100, SH, 9:00 a.m.; SC6
2/13/2014	S	Committee Report: Ought to Pass with Amendment #2014-0557s , 2/19/14; Vote 5-0; CC; SC7
2/19/2014	S	Committee Amendment 0557s, AA, VV
2/19/2014	S	Ought to Pass with Amendment 0557s, MA, VV; OT3rdg

NH House

NH Senate

Other Referrals

SB 201 -- RELATIVE TO MARRIAGE REGISTRATION FORMS.
COMMITTEE REPORT FILE INVENTORY

ORIGINAL REFERRAL RE-REFERRAL

1. THIS INVENTORY IS TO BE SIGNED AND DATED BY THE COMMITTEE AIDE AND PLACED INSIDE THE FOLDER AS THE FIRST ITEM IN THE COMMITTEE FILE.
2. PLACE ALL DOCUMENTS IN THE FOLDER FOLLOWING THE INVENTORY IN THE ORDER LISTED.
3. THE DOCUMENTS WHICH HAVE AN "X" BESIDE THEM ARE CONFIRMED AS BEING IN THE FOLDER.
4. THE COMPLETED FILE IS THEN DELIVERED TO THE CALENDAR CLERK.

- DOCKET (Submit only the latest docket found in Bill Status)
- COMMITTEE REPORT
- CALENDAR NOTICE
- HEARING REPORT
- PREPARED TESTIMONY AND OTHER SUBMISSIONS HANDED IN AT THE PUBLIC HEARING

SIGN-UP SHEET(S)

ALL AMENDMENTS (passed or not) CONSIDERED BY COMMITTEE:

- AMENDMENT # 0533s - AMENDMENT # _____

- AMENDMENT # 0557s - AMENDMENT # _____

ALL AVAILABLE VERSIONS OF THE BILL:

AS INTRODUCED

AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE (IF AMENDED)

OTHER (Anything else deemed important but not listed above, such as amended fiscal notes):

DATE DELIVERED TO SENATE CLERK

2/25/14

BY:

Susan Decker
COMMITTEE AIDE