

*What is Question 6, which will appear on Maryland's upcoming November ballot, and how will it affect Maryland's Civil Marriage Law passed in February 2012 which legalized same sex marriages?*

The Maryland Civil Marriage Protection Act was passed in February 2012 by the Maryland General Assembly and signed by Governor O'Malley in March 2012 it legalized same sex marriages in the state of Maryland. A referendum (Question 6) challenging the law will appear on November's ballot, as follows:

Question 6  
Referendum Petition  
(Ch. 2 of the 2012 Legislative Session)  
Civil Marriage Protection Act

Establishes that Maryland's civil marriage laws allow gay and lesbian couples to obtain a civil marriage license, provided they are not otherwise prohibited from marrying; protects clergy from having to perform any particular marriage ceremony in violation of their religious beliefs; affirms that each religious faith has exclusive control over its own theological doctrine regarding who may marry within that faith; and provides that religious organizations and certain related entities are not required to provide goods, services, or benefits to an individual related to the celebration or promotion of marriage in violation of their religious beliefs.

[http://www.elections.state.md.us/elections/2012/ballot\\_question\\_language.html](http://www.elections.state.md.us/elections/2012/ballot_question_language.html)