

2023 -- H 5443

LC000207

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

A N A C T

RELATING TO DOMESTIC RELATIONS -- SOLEMNIZATION OF MARRIAGES

Introduced By: Representatives Ajello, Knight, Batista, J. Lombardi, Kislak, Shallcross
Smith, Cruz, Handy, Tanzi, and Felix

Date Introduced: February 08, 2023

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 15-3-12 of the General Laws in Chapter 15-3 entitled "Solemnization
2 of Marriages" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **15-3-12. Endorsement and return of license.**

4 ~~(a)~~ Every minister, elder, justice, warden, or other person who joins any persons in
5 marriage, shall:

6 ~~(b)~~(1) Endorse the "License and Certificate of Marriage" form, prescribed pursuant to §
7 15-2-7, presented to him or her by the persons, as provided in § 15-3-7, and certify that the persons
8 have been joined in marriage by him or her in accordance with the laws of the state of Rhode Island;
9 and

10 ~~(c)~~(2) Complete all the information on the "License and Certificate of Marriage" and file
11 the form within ~~seventy-two (72) hours~~ two (2) business days following the date of the marriage
12 with the clerk in the town or city from which the license was issued; provided, that a filed form that
13 is mailed and postmarked within the time specified shall be deemed to have been filed in a timely
14 manner.

15 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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1 This act would require returns of a marriage certificate to be filed within two (2) business
2 days after the ceremony, and would validate the common practice of filing the return by mail.

3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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