

LC02371

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2002

A N A C T

RELATING TO MARRIAGES

Introduced By: Representatives Coogan, Guthrie, Almeida, Murphy, and Gallison

Date Introduced: February 05, 2002

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

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

3 **15-3-15. Marriages valid despite irregularities – Penalty for marriage without**
4 **compliance.** -- (a) No marriage solemnized before a person professing to have a license to join
5 persons in marriage as required by this chapter, or professing to be a justice of the supreme,
6 superior, or family court, or a warden of the town of New Shoreham, or solemnized in the Society
7 of Friends, or among persons professing the Jewish religion or Bahai faith according to their
8 respective rites and ceremonies, shall be deemed or adjudged to be void, nor is the validity of the
9 marriage in any way affected by want of jurisdiction or authority in the person or Society nor by
10 reason of noncompliance with any of the requirements of this chapter, ~~if the marriage is in other~~
11 ~~respects lawful and has been performed with a full belief on the part of the persons so married, or~~
12 ~~either of them, that they have been lawfully joined in marriage.~~ provided, however, that common
13 law marriages shall be void in the state of Rhode Island.

14 (b) ~~But whoever~~ Whoever gives, or procures to be given, any false information as to the
15 requirements under sections 15-2-1 -- 15-2-10, or whoever is married without proceeding as
16 required by chapters 1 to 3 of this title, shall be fined not exceeding fifty dollars (\$50.00).

1 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 prohibit common law marriages in the state of Rhode Island.
- 2 This act would take effect upon passage.

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