

2014 -- H 7226

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LC003787
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

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A N A C T

RELATING TO DOMESTIC RELATIONS -- SOLEMNIZATION OF MARRIAGES

Introduced By: Representatives Ajello, Craven, Marcello, Lally, and Blazejewski

Date Introduced: January 29, 2014

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 15-3-5 of the General Laws in Chapter 15-3 entitled "Solemnization
2 of Marriages" is hereby amended to read as follows:
3 **15-3-5. Officials empowered to join persons in marriage.** -- Every ordained clergy or
4 elder in good standing, [or clergy in training or in the case of a religious society which has no](#)
5 [ordained clergy, a person authorized by such society,](#) every justice of the supreme court, superior
6 court, family court, workers' compensation court, district court or traffic tribunal, the clerk of the
7 supreme court, every clerk or general chief clerk of a superior court, family court, district court,
8 or traffic tribunal, magistrates, special or general magistrates of the superior court, family court,
9 traffic tribunal or district court, administrative clerks of the district court, administrators of the
10 workers' compensation court, every former justice or judge and former administrator of these
11 courts and every former chief clerk of the district court, and every former clerk or general chief
12 clerk of a superior court, the secretary of the senate, elected clerks of the general assembly, any
13 former secretary of the senate or any former elected clerk of the general assembly who retires
14 after July 1, 2007, judges of the United States appointed pursuant to Article III of the United
15 States Constitution, bankruptcy judges appointed pursuant to Article I of the United States
16 Constitution, and United States magistrate judges appointed pursuant to federal law, may join
17 persons in marriage in any city or town in this state; and every justice and every former justice of
18 the municipal courts of the cities and towns in this state and of the police court of the town of
19 Johnston and every probate judge and every former probate judge may join persons in marriage in

1 any city or town in this state, and wardens of the town of New Shoreham may join persons in
2 marriage in New Shoreham. In addition to the foregoing, any person qualified under § 15-12-1
3 may, upon application to the secretary of state, solemnize a particular marriage on a particular
4 date and in a particular city or town. The secretary of state shall promulgate rules and regulations
5 to implement and carry out the provisions of this section and upon payment to his or her office of
6 the sum of fifty dollars (\$50.00), shall issue to said person a certificate of such designation. Such
7 certificate shall expire upon either the completion of such solemnization, or the day following the
8 particular date set forth in said certificate, whichever shall occur first. The fees collected under
9 this section shall be deposited into the general fund.

10 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 allow, in addition to ordained clergy or elder in good standing, clergy in
2 training or persons authorized by a religious society which has no ordained clergy to join persons
3 in marriage. It would also allow the secretary of state to promulgate rules and regulations to
4 implement this statute and sets the fee at \$50.00 for a certificate to join persons in marriage.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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