

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 3897**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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PRESENTED BY:

***Kenneth I. Gordon and Patricia D. Jehlen***

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*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act expanding opportunity to officiate marriage ceremonies.

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PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Kenneth I. Gordon</i>	<i>21st Middlesex</i>
<i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i>	<i>Second Middlesex</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 3897**

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By Representative Gordon of Bedford and Senator Jehlen, a joint petition (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Kenneth I. Gordon and Patricia D. Jehlen relative to persons authorized to perform marriage ceremonies . The Judiciary.

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court  
(2015-2016)**  
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An Act expanding opportunity to officiate marriage ceremonies.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 Section 1. Section 38 of Chapter 207 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2015  
2 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking lines 30 through 35 starting with the word  
3 “which” and replacing it with the following:

4 The authority of any officiant who certifies the performance of a marriage ceremony by  
5 executing a Notice of Intention pursuant to the authority granted by this Section is presumed and  
6 any such marriage performed by such officiant presumed valid and enforceable.

7 Section 2. Section 39 of said Chapter 207 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2015  
8 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking lines 40 through 46 and replacing it with the  
9 following:

10 In addition to the foregoing, the clerk of the municipality in which the Notice of Intention  
11 of Marriage is filed pursuant to Section 19 of this Chapter may, upon application by the persons  
12 intending to be joined in marriage may designate any other person to solemnize a particular

13 marriage on a particular date and in a particular city or town, and may for cause at any time  
14 revoke such designation. The clerk of said municipality, upon payment of twenty-five dollars by  
15 said other person, shall issue to said person a certificate of such designation within three business  
16 days of application. Such certificate will remain in effect for a period of seven days after the date  
17 designated for such solemnization, and will expire upon completion of such solemnization. The  
18 municipal clerk shall waive the fee for said certificate upon a showing of good cause.