

SENATE No. 2294

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)
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SENATE, July 18, 2019

The committee on Ways and Means to whom was referred the Senate Bill to end child marriage in Massachusetts (Senate, No. 24),-- reports, recommending that the same ought to pass with an amendment substituting a new draft with the same title (Senate, No. 2294).

For the committee,
Michael J. Rodrigues

SENATE No. 2294

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In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)

An Act to end child marriage in Massachusetts.

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. Chapter 207 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out section
2 7, as appearing in the 2018 Official Edition, and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

3 Section 7. A magistrate or minister shall not solemnize a marriage if a party to the
4 marriage is under the age of 18.

5 SECTION 2. Said chapter 207 is hereby further amended by striking out section 24, as so
6 appearing, and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

7 Section 24. The clerk or registrar shall not receive a notice of the intention of marriage of
8 a person under the age of 18.

9 SECTION 3. Section 25 of said chapter 207 is hereby repealed.

10 SECTION 4. Section 27 of said chapter 207, as appearing in the 2018 Official Edition, is
11 hereby amended by striking out the second and third sentences.

12 SECTION 5. Said chapter 207 is hereby further amended by striking out section 33A, as
13 so appearing, and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

14 Section 33A. The clerk or registrar shall not issue a certificate under section 28 before
15 receiving proof of age of the parties and verifying that both parties are not less than 18 years of
16 age. Such proof shall be contained in any of the following documents, graded and taking
17 precedence in the following order: (i) an original or certified copy of a record of birth; (ii) an
18 original or certified copy of a baptismal record; (iii) a passport; (iv) a life insurance policy; (v) an
19 employment certificate; (vi) a school record; (vii) an immigration record; (viii) a naturalization
20 record; or (ix) a court record. The clerk or registrar shall not accept documentary evidence of a
21 lower grade unless the clerk or registrar is satisfied that evidence of a higher grade is not readily
22 procurable.

23 SECTION 6. Section 34 of said chapter 207 is hereby repealed.

24 SECTION 7. Section 53 of said chapter 207, as appearing in the 2018 Edition, is hereby
25 amended by striking out, in line 2, the words “section thirty–three” and inserting in place thereof
26 the following words:- sections 24 and 33A.