

As Introduced

**133rd General Assembly
Regular Session
2019-2020**

H. B. No. 217

Representative Skindell

Cosponsors: Representatives Miller, A., Smith, K., Boggs

A BILL

To amend sections 3101.08, 3101.10, 3101.11, and 1
3101.12 of the Revised Code to allow any person 2
or entity that registers with the secretary of 3
state to solemnize marriages. 4

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That sections 3101.08, 3101.10, 3101.11, and 5
3101.12 of the Revised Code be amended to read as follows: 6

Sec. 3101.08. ~~An ordained or licensed minister of any 7
religious society or congregation within this state who is 8
licensed to solemnize marriages, a judge of a county court in 9
accordance with section 1907.18 of the Revised Code, a judge of 10
a municipal court in accordance with section 1901.14 of the 11
Revised Code, a probate judge in accordance with section 2101.27 12
of the Revised Code, the mayor of a municipal corporation in any 13
county in which such municipal corporation wholly or partly 14
lies, the superintendent of the state school for the deaf, or 15
any religious society in conformity with the rules of its 16
church, The following persons or entities may join together as 17
husband and wife any persons who are not prohibited by law from 18~~

being joined in marriage; 19

(A) An ordained or licensed minister of any religious 20
society or congregation within this state who is licensed to 21
solemnize marriages; 22

(B) A judge of a county court in accordance with section 23
1907.18 of the Revised Code; 24

(C) A judge of a municipal court in accordance with 25
section 1901.14 of the Revised Code; 26

(D) A probate judge in accordance with section 2101.27 of 27
the Revised Code; 28

(E) The mayor of a municipal corporation in any county in 29
which such municipal corporation wholly or partly lies; 30

(F) The superintendent of the state school for the deaf; 31

(G) Any religious society in conformity with the rules of 32
its church; 33

(H) Any other person or entity that has registered to 34
solemnize marriages with the secretary of state. 35

Sec. 3101.10. (A) A minister upon producing to the 36
secretary of state, credentials of the minister's being a 37
regularly ordained or licensed minister of any religious society 38
or congregation, shall be entitled to receive from the secretary 39
of state a license authorizing the minister to solemnize 40
marriages in this state so long as the minister continues as a 41
regular minister in that society or congregation. A minister 42
shall produce for inspection the minister's license to solemnize 43
marriages upon demand of any party to a marriage at which the 44
minister officiates or proposes to officiate or upon demand of 45
any probate judge. 46

(B) Any other person or entity that wishes to solemnize 47
marriages shall register with the secretary of state and the 48
secretary of state shall issue a license authorizing the person 49
or entity to solemnize marriages in this state. The person shall 50
produce for inspection the person's license to solemnize 51
marriages or, if applicable, the license of the entity on behalf 52
of which the person is solemnizing marriages, upon demand of any 53
party to a marriage at which the person officiates or proposes 54
to officiate or upon demand of any probate judge. 55

Sec. 3101.11. The secretary of state shall enter the name 56
of a minister licensed to solemnize marriages or any other 57
person or entity that registered with the secretary of state 58
under section 3101.10 of the Revised Code and is licensed to 59
solemnize marriages upon a record kept in the office of the 60
secretary of state. 61

Sec. 3101.12. When the name of a minister licensed to 62
~~solemnized~~ solemnize marriages or the name of any other person 63
or entity that registered with the secretary of state under 64
section 3101.10 of the Revised Code and is licensed to solemnize 65
marriages is entered upon the record by the secretary of state, 66
such record and the license issued under section 3101.10 of the 67
Revised Code shall be evidence that such minister, person, or 68
entity is authorized to solemnize marriages in this state. 69

Section 2. That existing sections 3101.08, 3101.10, 70
3101.11, and 3101.12 of the Revised Code are hereby repealed. 71