

2011 -- H 5256

LC00825

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2011

A N A C T

RELATING TO DOMESTIC RELATIONS - SOLEMNIZATION OF MARRIAGES

Introduced By: Representatives Guthrie, Azzinaro, Ajello, Walsh, and Blazejewski

Date Introduced: February 03, 2011

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.** -- (a) Every ordained clergy
4 or elder in good standing, every justice of the supreme court, superior court, family court,
5 workers' compensation court, district court or traffic tribunal, the clerk of the supreme court,
6 every clerk or general chief clerk of a superior court, family court, district court, or traffic
7 tribunal, magistrates, special or general magistrates of the superior court, family court, traffic
8 tribunal or district court, administrative clerks of the district court, administrators of the workers'
9 compensation court, every former justice or judge and former administrator of these courts and
10 every former chief clerk of the district court, and every former clerk or general chief clerk of a
11 superior court, the secretary of the senate, elected clerks of the general assembly, any former
12 secretary of the senate or any former elected clerk of the general assembly who retires after July
13 1, 2007, judges of the United States appointed pursuant to Article III of the United States
14 Constitution, bankruptcy judges appointed pursuant to Article I of the United States Constitution,
15 and United States magistrate judges appointed pursuant to federal law, may join persons in
16 marriage in any city or town in this state; and every justice and every former justice of the
17 municipal courts of the cities and towns in this state and of the police court of the town of
18 Johnston and every probate judge and every former probate judge may join persons in marriage in
19 any city or town in this state, and wardens of the town of New Shoreham may join persons in

1 marriage in New Shoreham.

2 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, or any other
3 provisions of the general or public laws, a marriage ceremony may also be performed by any
4 person the bride and groom chooses.

5 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 authorize a marriage ceremony to be performed by any person the bride
2 and groom chooses.

3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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