

Fiscal: No Fiscal Impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 05/11/15

Action: Do Pass As Amended And Be Printed Engrossed.

Meeting Dates: 03/23, 04/29, 05/11

Vote:

Yeas: 5 - Barnhart, Hoyle, Nosse, Rayfield, Smith Warner

Nays: 3 - Gilliam, Kennemer, Wilson

Exc: 1 - McLane

Prepared By: Erin Seiler, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Adds secular organizations and legislators or former members of legislature to list of persons and entities authorized to solemnize marriages.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Expanding number of civil marriage officiants
- Individuals who want marriage to be solemnized by non-religious-based officiants
- Amendments
- Institution of marriage, historically and currently
- Definition of secular organization
- Process for solemnizing marriages

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Clarifies definition of secular organization for purpose of being able to solemnize marriages. Removes parties to marriage as individuals able to solemnize marriages. Adds legislators or former members of legislature to list of individuals who may solemnize marriages.

BACKGROUND:

Current statute authorizes judicial officers, county clerks, religious congregations or organizations or a clergyperson of any religious congregation or organization authorized by the congregation or organization to solemnize marriages.

House Bill 3483-A adds to the statutory list of individuals who may solemnize a marriage: a celebrant or officiant of any secular organization who is authorized by the secular organization to solemnize marriages and legislators or former members of the legislature.