

**HOUSE BILL NO. 316**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

**BY REPRESENTATIVE CLAMAN**

**Introduced: 2/17/16**  
**Referred: Judiciary**

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 **"An Act relating to marriage solemnization; and authorizing elected public officials in**  
2 **the state to solemnize marriages."**

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 \* **Section 1.** AS 25.05.261(a) is amended to read:

5 (a) Marriages may be solemnized

6 (1) by a minister, priest, or rabbi of any church or congregation in the  
7 state, or by a commissioned officer of the Salvation Army, or by the principal officer  
8 or elder of recognized churches or congregations that traditionally do not have regular  
9 ministers, priests, or rabbis, anywhere within the state;

10 (2) by a marriage commissioner or judicial officer of the state  
11 anywhere within the jurisdiction of the commissioner or officer; [OR]

12 (3) before or in any religious organization or congregation according to  
13 the established ritual or form commonly practiced in the organization or congregation;

14 **or**

15 **(4) by an individual holding an elective public office in the state.**

1 \* **Sec. 2.** AS 25.05.281 is amended to read:

2           **Sec. 25.05.281. Marriage solemnized by unauthorized person.** After a  
3 license has been obtained, a marriage solemnized before a person professing to be a  
4 minister, priest, or rabbi of a church or congregation in the state, [OR] a judicial  
5 officer, a [OR] marriage commissioner, **or an individual holding an elective public**  
6 **office in the state** is valid regardless of a lack of power or authority in the person, if  
7 the marriage is consummated with a belief on the part of the persons so married, or  
8 either of them, that they have been lawfully joined in marriage.