
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 489 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY COHEN, FRANKEL, V. BROWN, BROWNLEE, M. DALEY,
J. HARRIS, KINSEY, McNEILL, C. PARKER, SCHLOSSBERG,
SCHREIBER, SCHWEYER AND THOMAS, FEBRUARY 17, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, FEBRUARY 17, 2015

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 23 (Domestic Relations) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in preliminary provisions, further
3 defining "marriage"; and, in miscellaneous provisions
4 relating to marriage, repealing provisions relating to
5 marriage between persons of the same sex and providing for
6 same-sex marriages.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. The definition of "marriage" in section 1102 of
10 Title 23 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes is amended to
11 read:

12 § 1102. Definitions.

13 The following words and phrases when used in this part shall
14 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
15 context clearly indicates otherwise:

16 * * *

17 "Marriage." A civil contract [by which one man and one woman
18 take each other for husband and wife] between two people who
19 enter into matrimony.

1 * * *

2 Section 2. Section 1704 of Title 23 is repealed:

3 [§ 1704. Marriage between persons of the same sex.

4 It is hereby declared to be the strong and longstanding
5 public policy of this Commonwealth that marriage shall be
6 between one man and one woman. A marriage between persons of the
7 same sex which was entered into in another state or foreign
8 jurisdiction, even if valid where entered into, shall be void in
9 this Commonwealth.]

10 Section 3. Title 23 is amended by adding a section to read:

11 § 1704.1. Same-sex marriages.

12 (a) Construction.--Nothing in this title may be construed to
13 compel a religious sect to perform same-sex marriages.

14 (b) Marriages outside Commonwealth.--Marriages performed
15 legally outside this Commonwealth and outside this country shall
16 be recognized by the Commonwealth.

17 Section 4. This act shall take effect in 60 days.