

2020 -- H 7517

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LC004337  
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

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A N A C T

RELATING TO DOMESTIC RELATIONS -- SOLEMNIZATION OF MARRIAGES

Introduced By: Representatives Jackson, Canario, McLaughlin, McNamara, and  
Casimiro

Date Introduced: February 07, 2020

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.**

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

1 administrator, and every probate judge and every former probate judge may join persons in  
2 marriage in any city or town in this state, and wardens of the town of New Shoreham may join  
3 persons in marriage in New Shoreham.

4 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO DOMESTIC RELATIONS -- SOLEMNIZATION OF MARRIAGES

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1           This act would add the administrator of the supreme court as an individual authorized to  
2 perform marriages and would clarify that the current administrators of the superior court, family  
3 court, district court, or traffic tribunal are empowered to perform marriages.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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