

2010 -- S 2450

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010

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A N A C T

RELATING TO DOMESTIC RELATIONS -- SOLEMNIZATION OF MARRIAGES

Introduced By: Senator Michael J. McCaffrey

Date Introduced: February 11, 2010

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

1 addition to the foregoing, the governor may designate any person not having a criminal record to  
2 solemnize a particular marriage on a particular date and in a particular city or town, and may for  
3 cause at any time revoke such designation. In the case of persons so designated by the governor,  
4 the secretary of state shall promulgate rules and regulations as may be necessary to implement  
5 and carry out the provisions of this section and upon payment to him or her of the sum of one  
6 hundred fifty dollars (\$150), shall issue to said person a certificate of such designation. Such  
7 certificate shall expire upon either the completion of such solemnization or the day following the  
8 particular date set forth in said certificate, whichever shall occur first. The fees collected under  
9 this section shall be deposited into the general fund.

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

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
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RELATING TO DOMESTIC RELATIONS -- SOLEMNIZATION OF MARRIAGES

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- 1           This act would allow the governor to designate any person not having a criminal record
- 2 to solemnize a marriage. The secretary of state would promulgate rules to implement this
- 3 designation. The certificate for said designation would cost one hundred fifty dollars (\$150).
- 4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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