

SENATE BILL 2462

By Bowling

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 36,  
Chapter 3, relative to persons who may solemnize  
marriages.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 36-3-301(a)(1), is amended by deleting the subdivision and substituting instead the following language:

All regular ministers, preachers, pastors, priests, rabbis, and other spiritual leaders of every religious belief, more than eighteen (18) years of age, having the care of souls, may solemnize the rite of matrimony.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 36-3-301, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated subsection:

If any marriage has been entered into by license regularly issued at which a public official of this state officiated prior to July 1, 2016, such marriage shall be valid and is hereby declared to be in full compliance with the laws of this state.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 36-3-301(c), is amended by deleting the subsection.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 36-3-301(e), is amended by deleting the subsection.

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 36-3-301(h), is amended by deleting the language "The judge of the general sessions court of any county, and any former judge of any general sessions court, may solemnize the rite of matrimony in any county of this state.".

SECTION 6. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 36-3-301(i), is amended by deleting the subsection.

SECTION 7. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 36-3-301(k), is amended by deleting the subsection.

SECTION 8. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 36-3-103(a), is amended by deleting the language "minister or officer" wherever it appears and substituting instead "officiant".

SECTION 9. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 36-3-302, is amended by deleting the language "minister or officer" wherever it appears and substituting instead "officiant".

SECTION 10. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 36-3-305, is amended by deleting the language "minister or officer" wherever it appears and substituting instead "officiant".

SECTION 11. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016, the public welfare requiring it, and shall apply to marriages solemnized on or after that date.