

2014 -- S 2155

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

A N A C T

RELATING TO DOMESTIC RELATIONS -- SOLEMNIZATION OF MARRIAGES

Introduced By: Senators McCaffrey, Ruggerio, and Ciccone

Date Introduced: January 29, 2014

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 to solemnize a particular
2 marriage on a particular date and in a particular city or town, and may for cause at any time
3 revoke such designation; provided, however, that no felon shall be permitted to solemnize a
4 particular marriage until completion of such felon's sentence, served or suspended, and on parole
5 or probation regardless of a nolo contendere plea. In the case of persons so designated by the
6 governor, the secretary of state shall promulgate rules and regulations as may be necessary to
7 implement and carry out the provisions of this section and upon payment to him or her of the sum
8 of one hundred fifty dollars (\$150), shall issue to said person a certificate of such designation.
9 Such certificate shall expire upon either the completion of such solemnization or the day
10 following the particular date set forth in said certificate, whichever shall occur first. The fees
11 collected under this section shall be deposited into the general fund.

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

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

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1 This act would allow the governor to designate any person not having a felony criminal
2 record 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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