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Bruce
3/1/17

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 20()

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY

**Offered:
Referred:**

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVE CLAMAN

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

"An Act relating to marriage solemnization; and authorizing elected public officials in the state to solemnize marriages."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

*** Section 1.** AS 25.05.261(a) is amended to read:

(a) Marriages may be solemnized

(1) by a minister, priest, or rabbi of any church or congregation in the state, or by a commissioned officer of the Salvation Army, or by the principal officer or elder of recognized churches or congregations that traditionally do not have regular ministers, priests, or rabbis, anywhere within the state;

(2) by a marriage commissioner or judicial officer of the state anywhere within the jurisdiction of the commissioner or officer; [OR]

(3) before or in any religious organization or congregation according to the established ritual or form commonly practiced in the organization or congregation;

or

1 **(4) by an individual holding an elective public office in the state;**
2 **an individual holding an elective public office in the state may refuse to solemnize**
3 **a marriage for any reason, including for reasons of religious scruple or**
4 **conscience.**

5 * **Sec. 2.** AS 25.05.281 is amended to read:

6 **Sec. 25.05.281. Marriage solemnized by unauthorized person.** After a
7 license has been obtained, a marriage solemnized before a person professing to be a
8 minister, priest, or rabbi of a church or congregation in the state, [OR] a judicial
9 officer, **a** [OR] marriage commissioner, **or an individual holding an elective public**
10 **office in the state** is valid regardless of a lack of power or authority in the person, if
11 the marriage is consummated with a belief on the part of the persons so married, or
12 either of them, that they have been lawfully joined in marriage.