



Alaska State Legislature

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House Bill 20

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

CS for House Bill 20 (JUD) – Explanation of Changes

Introduced Version J to CS Version O

In House State Affairs HB 20 version A was amended, inserting “; *nothing in this paragraph requires or obligates an individual holding an elective public office in the state to solemnize marriage*” into the language. This change made clear that elected officials would not have a duty to perform marriage solemnization.

CSHB20 Version D was amended to include “*for any reason, including for reasons of religious scruple or conscience.*” This change allows elected officials to cite religious scruples or conscience as a reason not to solemnize a marriage.

CSHB20 Version J was amended to delete “*an individual holding an elective public office in the state may refuse to solemnize a marriage for any reason, including for reasons of religious scruple or conscience.*” Adds a new subsection that reads “*nothing in this section creates or implies a duty on a person authorized to solemnize a marriage under (a)(1, (3), or (4) of this section to solemnize marriage*”