



Alaska State Legislature

Representative Matt Claman

Session: State Capitol, Rm 118 Juneau, AK 99801 Phone: 465-4919

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House Bill 20

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

Sectional Summary

Section 1 amends AS 25.05.261(a) relating to who may solemnize a marriage. Currently the statute only allows for marriage solemnization by

- A religious official, which includes ministers, priests, rabbis, or commissioned officers of the Salvation Army, or by the principal officer or elder of recognized churches or congregations,
- a marriage commissioner or judicial officer,
- or before or in any religious organization or congregation

House Bill 20 adds language to add to the list *“an individual holding an elective public office in the state.”*

Section 2 adds a new subsection to AS 25.05.261 that says that no religious official, organization or elected official that is authorized to perform marriages is *obligated* to do so.

AS 25.05.281, which allows marriages solemnized by unauthorized persons professing to be authorized to be considered valid is amended in **Section 3** to include language that reads that marriages solemnized by elective officials are considered valid.