



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 Version D to 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.

In House Judiciary CS(STA)HB20 version D was amended to update the language “*nothing in this paragraph requires or obligates an individual holding an elective public office in the state to solemnize marriage*” to now read “*nothing in this section creates or implies a duty or obligation on a person authorized to solemnize a marriage under (a)(1), (3), or (4) of this section to solemnize any marriage.*” This language expands the language providing that elected officials aren’t obligated to solemnize marriage to also cover religious officials and religious organizations or congregations.