

30-LS0242\J
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

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

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

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

5 (a) Marriages may be solemnized

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

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

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

14 **or**

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(4) by an individual holding an elective public office in the state; 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.

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

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