

**HOUSE BILL NO. 270**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE KEMPLER

Introduced: 5/2/97

Referred: Health, Education and Social Services, Judiciary

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 "An Act relating to premarital relationship counseling; amending Rule 9(e)(7),  
2 Administrative Rules of Court."

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

4 \* **Section 1.** AS 25.05.241 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

5 (b) If each contracting party for a marriage license has submitted to the  
6 licensing officer a certificate attesting under oath or affirmation of the counselor and  
7 the party that the party has completed at least four hours of relationship counseling in  
8 the six months immediately preceding submission of the certificate under this  
9 subsection, the marriage license fee is \$25.00; otherwise, the fee is \$300.00.

10 (c) Except for the information required on the marriage license application  
11 form, information given by a marriage license applicant under (b) of this section is  
12 confidential, is not subject to inspection or copying under AS 09.25.100 - 09.25.220,  
13 and may not be released by any person.

14 (d) In this section,

1 (1) "counselor" means a

2 (A) person licensed under state law to perform counseling  
3 activities;

4 (B) rabbi, priest, minister, Christian Science practitioner,  
5 member of the clergy, or other similar religious practitioner of a religious  
6 denomination, or a tribally recognized traditional healer or counselor if the  
7 person is engaged in activities that are within the scope of the performance of  
8 the person's regular or specialized duties and the person remains accountable  
9 to the established authority of the religious denomination or the ruling body of  
10 the tribal group; or

11 (C) member of the staff of a nonprofit corporation whose  
12 business includes the provision of relationship counseling;

13 (2) "relationship counseling" means face-to-face lectures, group  
14 counseling, individual counseling, or testing designed to

15 (A) provide basic knowledge about the characteristics of  
16 successful partnerships, including mutual responsibility, mutual respect,  
17 developing win-win solutions to problems, and the importance of  
18 communication and working together;

19 (B) explore areas of compatibility and incompatibility in the  
20 relationship of two parties who are contemplating marriage to each other;

21 (C) make each party aware of potential problem areas in the  
22 proposed marriage and possible ways of meeting the problems;

23 (D) induce reconsideration or postponement where either party  
24 is not sufficiently mature, is not financially capable of meeting the  
25 responsibilities of marriage, or is marrying for reasons not conducive to a  
26 sound, lasting marriage.

27 \* **Sec. 2.** COURT RULE CHANGE. AS 25.05.241(b), enacted by sec. 1 of this Act, has  
28 the effect of amending Rule 9(e)(7), Administrative Rules of Court, by establishing in statute  
29 fees for issuance of a marriage license.

30 \* **Sec. 3.** APPLICABILITY. This Act applies to a marriage license issued on or after the  
31 effective date of this Act.