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COMMITTEE REPORT

HOUSE

FURTHER: JUDICIARY

2/4/81

(5)

Date: _____

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES has had HB 113

"An Act authorizing marriages of limited duration."

under consideration and (a majority of the committee) (the committee) reports it back with the following recommendations:

- do pass do not pass
- do pass with attached amendments(s)
- replace with CS for _____ same title
 new title
- and recommends _____
- AND attaches a "Letter of Intent" New Fiscal Note
- reports it back without recommendation *fiscal impact attached*
- referred to the _____ Committee

MEMBERS SIGNING
DO PASS

[Signature]

[Signature]

MEMBERS HAVING
OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

[Signature] - No Rec.

[Signature]

CHAIRMAN

Testimony for
HB 113

~~Ann~~ Brian Caldwell
Herl Berkowitz
John Reese

Summate

JAR

Mary Whelock
Shirley Howe

Hindal

Shirley

Morris

Beth Hazen

SRA Box 2095-B

99507

HB 117

9-9-81

Sent cc of HB 113, position paper
news paper articles etc.

Cm



Official Business

Alaska State Legislature

House of Representatives

Committee on

Health, Education & Social Services

Pouch V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

March 23, 1982

AGENDA

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| ✓ HB 113 | Marriages of limited duration |
| ✓ HB 497 | Relating to bearing and adoption of children |
| ✓ HB 498 | Relating to bearing children and the parent child relationship. |
| CSSB 89(R1)am | Amending the child protection laws. |

Witnesses:

- | | |
|------------|--|
| HB 113 | Joan Brooks, Vital Statistics |
| HB 497/498 | Joan Brooks |
| CSSB 89 | John Pugh, Div. of Family & Youth Services
Victor Krumm, Dept. of Law |



Official Business

Alaska State Legislature

House of Representatives

Committee on

Health, Education & Social Services

Pouch V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

SECTIONAL ANALYSIS

House Bill 113: An Act authorizing marriages of limited duration.

Section 1 Findings and Purpose.

The traditional marriage has not met the needs or aspirations of many Alaskans and as a result many are living together out of wedlock. However, marriage imbues a man-woman relationship with special significance in the minds and hearts of most Alaskans. This bill allows persons who wish to deepen their commitment, but who are unable or unwilling to make a life-time commitment, to enter into a legally recognized relationship. In the event of nonrenewal of the marriage, the ugly consequences of divorce may be minimized. The Act does not intend to affect the validity of marriages of unlimited duration nor undermine their moral, social, or religious foundations.

Section 2 Marriage of Limited Duration.

A marriage entered into under this bill expires when agreed upon unless renewed. (25.05.372)

Agreement and Filing.

Parties to either a prospective or existing marriage may seek to provide for the expiration of their marriage. The agreement shall provide when the marriage expires and shall agree upon a method for property division. A license fee of \$100 shall be collected. (25.05.373)

Renewal of Marriage.

The marriage of limited duration may be renewed by filing notice with the local registrar of vital statistics. (25.05.374).

Removal of Limitation

Parties to the marriage may remove the time limitation on the marriage by filing notice.

Section 3

The marriage expiration contract shall be filed with the certificate of marriage.

Section 4

The official issuing the marriage license shall attach to it any agreement subjecting the marriage to expiration.

Section 5

The marriage expiration agreement shall be filed with the local registrar together with the certificate of marriage.



Official Business

Alaska State Legislature

House of Representatives

Committee on

Health, Education & Social Services

Pouch V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Sectional Analysis (cont'd)
HB 113

Section 6

Application for License.

Parties to a prospective marriage shall file the marriage expiration agreement with the marriage licensing officer together with the premarital certificate. (25.05.091).

Section 7

Custody of the Child.

Dispute over custody of children born of marriages of limited duration shall be resolved by the same procedures as those children born of marriages of unlimited duration (25.20.060).

Section 8

Marriages of limited duration are accorded the same status as other domestic relationships in relation to court orders pertaining to the "duty of support".

Number of unmarried couples living together way up since '70

By BRYCE NELSON
The Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — The number of unmarried couples living together tripled during the 1970s and the great majority of them were under 35, the Census Bureau reported Sunday.

The bureau's report, "Marital Status and Living Arrangements: March 1980," painted a picture of rapid and substantial change in the life styles of Americans during the 1970s.

It said a nationwide survey of 65,000 households last year also showed that:

• The number of children under 18 living with only one parent has increased sharply, from 11.9 percent of the nation's children in 1970 to 19.7 percent in 1980, mainly because of higher rates of divorce, separation and illegitimacy;

• The number of single-person households increased by 64 percent from 10.9 million in 1970 to 17.8 million in 1980. About 23 percent of U.S. households now consist of just one person;

• Much of the increase in such households is because three times as many persons under 35 lived alone in 1980 as in 1970;

• The age at which people marry continues to rise — the median age at first marriage for women rose from 20.8 years to 22.1 years during the 1970s, while the age for men rose from 23.2 to 24.6. The marriage age is now almost identical to what it was more than a half-century ago;

• Divorce continues to increase sharply. The ratio of divorced persons per 1,000 married persons living with spouses more than doubled — from 47 per 1,000 in 1970 to 100 per 1,000 in 1980;

• The divorce rate was much higher among blacks than among whites and Latinos. The ratio of divorced blacks to married blacks was 203 per 1,000, compared to 92 for whites and 94 for Latinos.

As for the growing tendency toward one-person households and toward unmarried couples living together, Arlene F. Saluter, a bureau demographic statistician and chief author of the report, said: "It seems to be a matter of greater acceptance of

women who lived in such households were under 35. In 20 percent of the cases, both partners were under 25. About 27 percent of those unmarried households contained children.

Those unmarried couples

still represent a distinct minority, however, making up only about 2 percent of all households. The nation's 48 million married couples outnumber the unmarried couples by more than 30 to 1.



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Among the reasons for the growing number of one-person households, Saluter said, are the increased number of women in the work force, the delayed marriage age, a rise in Americans' affluence, and a reduced tendency for single, older persons to move in with their families.

The sharp increase in the number of unmarried couples living together — from 523,000 in 1970 to 1.56 million in 1980 — is mainly because of a change in behavior among the young, according to the report. About 63 percent of the men and

Candy-powered car competes in long rally

The Associated Press

IRVINE, Calif. — A pickup truck is powered by a wood-burning stove, a small compact runs on sunflower oil and other vehicles burn "snickerhol," an alcohol fuel distilled from waste candy bars.

They were among the 38 cars and trucks that left the Orange County International Raceway Saturday in a cross-country competition where speed doesn't matter but fuel efficiency does.

Entrants in the Alternative Fuels Rally hope to cover 3,300 miles and wind up in Rochester, N.Y., in seven days.

Each car carries a meter to monitor how well it conserves what it's using for fuel. Along the way pit stops will be made at wood piles or "snickerhol" tanks, which will be filled with a fuel made from stale and otherwise unwanted candy bars.

Other cars will fill up on ethanol made from avocado pits, sweet potatoes and corn.

And some won't have to refuel at all. They'll be recharging on solar power and electricity.

Race organizer Joe Shepard has said he hopes the publicity from the rally will break through public apathy, and what he sees as oil company reluctance to become involved in non-fossil fuel sources, by showing that alternative fuels are available and practical.

"I think we (Americans) could be the Saudi Arabia of ethanol. It's the most American thing we could do," he said.

Each of the entrants put up a \$200 fee to cover costs. Shepard contributed \$25,000 in prize money for the winner.

Whether you sprechen das Deutsch or not, you'll love the hoopla of our Oktoberfest celebration. There'll be Deutsch flags, Deutsch posters und das Anchorage Kräusenspieler Blaskapelle German band performing Deutsch Musik nightly. Tradition red und gold cloths will cover tables around which there'll be singen und trinken.

You can order fantastic fare from our regular menu...including succulent seafood, steaks and rib. Or enjoy the special Deutsch we've prepared just for this occasion.

Zwiebelrostbraten. A dinner tenderest tenderloin with saut covered with a dark Deutsch

OKTO

Beirne makes a splash Outside

by Dave Carpenter
Times Journal Bureau

Juneau — Rep. Mike Beirne's plan for trial marriages isn't catching on too well in the Legislature, but media from outside Alaska are having all kinds of fun with it.

In a session punctuated by dollar signs, the Anchorage Republican has grabbed his headlines on an issue of love, not money. And now he is becoming almost a regular on the television talk-show circuit.

Beirne, who appeared on the Dinah Shore Show earlier this year, recently returned from a taping session in Chicago with Phil Donahue. There he went head-to-head with a Baptist minister on his proposal for limited-term marriages.

The segment is tentatively scheduled to be aired on Donahue's 10-minute program on the Today show Wednesday. The program, shown locally on Channel 2, begins at 7 a.m.

Mail and phone calls have flooded Beirne's office — from The Times of London, from a woman in New Jersey who claims she's been pushing the idea for years, from religious groups who damn him as a sinner who will never get to heaven.

And other legislators report they've had dozens of letters on the subject, many of them from Fairbanks residents who for some reason are particularly opposed to it.

Beirne's idea is to make marriage a "continuous courtship" by having the partners sign a contract for a marriage of limited duration. At the end of the period — a minimum of



one year — the couple could re-enlist for another hitch or go their separate ways.

The Anchorage legislator, who is separated from his wife, developed the idea after a conversation with friends a couple of years ago, questioning why marriage should bring courtship to an end.

He says the proposal is a first in legislative history anywhere. But there is a precedent for it, he says, in the Dead Sea Scrolls, which purportedly tell of the early Christian church sanctioning trial marriages for traveling workers.

Dead Sea Scrolls or no, the bill still sits in the House Judiciary Committee, where it was referred in early February. And it's not likely to surface until public hearings Beirne plans to hold in the summer.

"A lot of people think I'm doing

this for fun and games, but people in my district had talked to me very seriously about the rising divorce rate in the nation," Beirne said.

When criticized for encouraging temporary marriages, as he was by his Baptist debate opponent, Beirne points out that a divorce rate approaching 50 percent means traditional marriage vows aren't exactly etched in cement either.

Besides, he says, it will not only strengthen the institution of marriage by providing extra incentives, it will lead to an increase in romance, and who's not for that?

"If you know the marriage is going to terminate a month from now, you're going to start bringing home flowers and start to work harder to make it work. Both sides are not going to postpone communications."

Trial marriage would be merely an option to the more traditional method of tying the knot.

If the Legislature ever passes Beirne's bill into law, there could be an interesting side effect. Lower 48 residents looking for a limited-term marriage might fly here to great numbers to proudly ink their new contracts, making Alaska, as Beirne puts it, the "marriage capital of the world."

The Anchorage Republican has been reluctant to make a lot of noise about his proposal in the Legislature this year, figuring it's an idea that has to cook for a couple of years before it's accepted.

He promises to be less quiet about it once the session ends, and in the meantime he's getting his share of attention for it Outside.

Beirne backs Moral Majority

Our Juneau bureau

JUNEAU — They may disagree with his pet bill on marriage, but Anchorage Rep. Mike Beirne says he's all behind the Moral Majority movement.

"In the long run, the Moral Majority people are going to strengthen the Republican Party," Beirne told a gathering of local GOP members Tuesday.

The Republican legislator conceded that recent inroads the religious-oriented movement had made in Alaska Republican party caucuses resulted in the ousting of veteran party workers.

However, he said, "this new blood" would help attract more members to the party.

A bill Beirne has sponsored to allow marriages of limited duration provoked opposition from people who identified themselves as members of the Moral Majority movement, he said.

"But when I explained to some of them what the bill was about, they didn't think it was such a bad idea," Beirne said.

The legislation would give couples the option of ending their marriage on a certain date, or extending it, by contract. Although the bill has little or no chance of passing this year, it has gained Beirne national publicity.

Last week, he flew to Los Angeles for an appearance on the "Dinah Shore Show" to discuss the bill.

The syndicated show, which isn't seen in Alaska, is scheduled for national showing on April 1.

God and marriage

Dear Editor:
Some people informed me that they read about a temporary marriage agreement proclaimed by Mike Beirne. I read the article, but received a different composition. I received an announcement that a new God had made some new rules for the families of the future.
Sorry, I am too old (59) to change to a new God and my old one said, "I wish God had joined together, let

no man put asunder."
I pray that Rep. Beirne will find his place in life and it will not be in the government where he will have any influence upon young people. Were I to put forth such tragic statements concerning sacred marriages, my knowledge of God's word would cause me to shake with fear.
Wayne Pinquoch
Wasilla

3-26-80

the Alaska Ear



QUESTIONS THAT NEED TO BE ASKED AT LEAST ONCE... Is it true that one Anchorage legislator has asked the legal staff in Juneau to research a bill that would allow a woman legally to carry and give birth to a child for a married couple? And does this have anything to do with the zany "contract marriage" idea suggested a month ago?...Is Ken Ott, former managing director of the Anchorage Performing Arts Center, now director of development for the Pasadena (Calif.) Playhouse? And what does a development director do for a playhouse?

Wednesday, February 13, 1990, The Anchorage Times A-7

Letters to the editor

Trial marriage bill

Dear Editor:

When the organization of the Moral Majority was announced and its purpose became known, there were some cries of protest, some even coming from the clergy of Anchorage, insinuating a violation of the separation of church and state on the church's part.

The violation is there all right, but as usual it is the state's. A prime example of the state meddling in church's affairs, is Rep. Mike Beirne's bill for trial marriages.

The precepts of marriage are found in the Holy Bible, not in the laws of the State of Alaska. Marriage is a Holy Sacrament and was instituted by God Almighty in the garden of Eden. Romans 7:23 declares that a marriage can be annulled by death only, not by the whim of some politicians. Jesus Christ said in Matthew 19:6, "What therefore God hath joined together, let no man put asunder."

I would think there is enough state business for Rep. Beirne to be involved with, without trying to legislate morality.

Gary Frickman
4113 Roger Drive

EDITORIAL PAGE

The Anchorage Times

Page A-6

Wednesday, March 6, 1990

What others say

From The Southeast Alaska Empire, Juneau

REP. MIKE Beirne's HB 676 is intended to strengthen the institution of marriage, we believe it has missed its mark. In fact, to continue in the "pursuit" it missed the landmark institutions are just that. They cannot and should not be changed by the stroke of a legislator's pen. And even if they could, marriage is about the last institution a legislature should meddle in.

We have every faith that the legislature will give HB 676 the attention it deserves.

If trial marriages make proven industry, what the heck?

I've been thinking about Mike Belmont's trial marriage bill. Maybe I was too harsh.

After all, things are tight these days, and it could be just the shot in the arm our tired Alaska economy needs. A cottage, if not a chapel, industry.

From the first commitment to the final ceremony, it could open whole new vistas of employment.

Start with the invitations. It would be absolutely imperative for us to know exactly how long the cautious couple plans to stay together in order

to choose appropriate wedding gifts. This means Alaska's printers would have to come up with some form of color coding, maybe with little stars in the corner, to illustrate the exact degree of emotional — and to the R.S.V.P. or, financial — involvement. Such enterprise could go a long way in preventing misguided guests from presenting silver tea set gifts to a Dixie Cup couple.

Then there is the wedding gown itself. Here, too, color coding could come into play, perhaps with tastefully-decorat-

Suzan Nightingale



ed disposable frocks for brides of less than one year. Maybe a rental agency is called for.

And then there's the pastry industry. You just can't have a

little bride and groom on top of a wedding cake for a trial marriage. I mean, a little respect for tradition, PLEASE. But a little calendar, held open

to the appropriate cancellation date by little sugar love birds, would be nice. Or maybe a little hour glass, sprinkling white sugar all over the top of the cake, would work.

But all this is small fish to fry when you look at the real potential of this trial marriage bill — tourism. We could make Reno look like a retirement community by comparison.

Imagine star-crossed (but cautious) lovers, jetting in from the Lower 48 to do their thing in The Church of What's Happenin' Now wedding chap-

el. With an amendment here and a loophole there, we could even make it so they have to come back to sign papers when it's all over, thus ensuring that return trade we're always hearing about.

No, I can see I was much too harsh on this piece of legislation. This trial marriage bill is a real sleeper, so to speak.

I mean, really, what newlywed could resist it? "Alaska, Wedding Capital of the World: Where The Nights Are Six Months Long!"

Anch Daily News
C-1
Feb 11-90

Beirne: Bill could 'strengthen' marriage

By LAURA ZAHN

Empire Staff Reporter

Anchorage Rep. Mike Beirne, who Tuesday introduced legislation to legalize "marriages of limited duration," said he thinks his bill will help strengthen the institution of marriage.

Under House Bill 678, couples could file a written agreement with their marriage license, stating the number of years for which they wish to be married. If the agreement is not renewed with the court, the marriage will

automatically dissolve on the specified date.

The bill is designed to allow persons "who, for various reasons, are unwilling or unable to make a lifetime commitment" to enter into an alternative to traditional marriage.

"This will strengthen the institution of marriage because you have to make positive affirmation of the marriage on a periodic basis," Beirne said in an interview Tuesday.

"I think this would conform

very nicely with what churches have been preaching for years—reassessment of the marriage and renewing of vows."

While Beirne said he is being accused of "trying to legalize the weekend tryst," he claims his bill will, instead, provide a way out of morally objectionable situations.

"It's encouraged as an alternative to 'living in sin' to marry," he said. Cohabitation, already legal in the state, is practiced by "a substantial percentage of

Alaskans) and growing."

Because of the changing population and young age of the majority, "this is the best state in the union to try this idea out." It is also the only state to consider doing so, he said.

"It will strengthen a weakening institution by legally weakening it but making it spiritually stronger," Beirne said.

The key, he claims, is the written agreement, which costs \$100 to be filed with the marriage license. No attorney is necessary

to help fill out the form provided by the state.

In the agreement, the couple would specify the number of years they wished to be married, and who would get what income and articles should the marriage not be renewed.

Child custody could be stipulated in the agreement, but if a dispute arises, it must be settled by the court, as in divorce.

Beirne said his idea puts a "burden of proof" on the couple who wants to stay together, forc-

ing them: to take action to keep the marriage in existence—literally. Without action, it would expire.

"Always before, you had to fight your way out," he said. "There are lots of people who are living together who don't want to be," but they do so because of the "until death do us part" beliefs or because of the "hassle" of divorce.

An expirable marriage would force couples to think about terms of the agreement.

How will future treat marriage?

by Lee W. Stratman

I recall back in my junior high school days running through my neighborhood and Mrs. Blatt, the mayor's wife, hailing me from her back porch. "Come here," she said. "I have a little miracle for you."

When I approached my queen-sized neip'oor she had in her hand a paper napkin wrapped around an ice cube. It was the first home refrigerator ice cube I had ever seen. I was familiar with the 10-, 25- and 50-pound blocks which the iceman brought over his shoulder. But an ice cube manufactured in your own kitchen—that was different.

I was ushered into the Blatts' kitchen and there was a large white chest with a kind of bird cage on top. Mrs. Blatt showed me the ice cube trays and even suggested that ice cream could also be made therein.

Mrs. Blatt used the occasion to act as a prophetess. The time would come, she said, when all homes would have a refrigerator and ice cubes and even frozen food.

I don't prophesy about ice cubes or frozen foods, but I sometimes like to lie back in my chair and think about marriages of the future — say about the year 2000.

I hope the future brings formal education for marriage, with courses not only about sexual relationships but also about conducting family business, communication, roles of spouses, child care, and other such important things.

I hope that in the future a license to marry will require more than vital statistics and a blood test for syphilis. I hope there will be, as technology proceeds, a complete screening for genetic difficulties and possible birth defects. I hope there will also be a real physical examination of parts involved in child bearing.

If the world keeps a-crowding,

ABOUT MARRIAGE

there may also be a license to have a child or children. Most sociologists see more governmental control coming. The good breeding stock will be licensed to multiply and replenish the few available spots on the earth. Who will determine who is the best breeding stock will have to be decided. Chances are good it will be a committee and its deliberations will take years, judging by the way bureaucracy is going in this era.

In the future, more couples will elect not to have children, as we see even now. I believe it is a good trend because it means that only those who wish to work with children will have them. Those who do choose children should have extensive parent education. High school or college classes should equip persons to make decisions about breast or bottle feeding, how to discipline the little nippers and how to furnish them with an ethical sense.

In the future it will also be more acceptable for persons to remain single and not marry. Back in the by-gone days of 1940 I remember how Aunt Laura was a curiosity because

she never married. People suggested that there was something wrong with her disposition and referred to her as an Old Maid. There was an idea in that time that marriage was natural and the single life unnatural; thank heavens we have gotten over that myth.

I suspect that priorities of married couples in the future will also be different. It appears that the one family dwelling — usually a first acquisition — may not be accessible to the rank and file. The apartment, the condominium and perhaps some new housing unit may be the way to go as prices for individual homes skyrocket.

If persons remain as mobile as they are and pleasure trips continue to increase in price with escalating oil costs, some substitute is going to have to be found for the extended family. Grandpas and Grandmas are too far away to care for skinned knees and education in chess or checkers. I have always felt the church ought to provide surrogate aunts, uncles, grandmothers and grandfathers for our children when

they are young.

Will marriage continue to exist in 2000? I firmly believe it will, although it will continue to change.

I believe people will want more intimate marriages with partners who will communicate and offer emotional support. The strong silent husband will be as extinct as the Dodo bird by the year the new millennium begins.

Some authorities believe there will be a 3- to 5-year trial marriage in the future. I find it hard to conceive that a temporary relationship can prepare one for a permanent one but there would be some merit in knowing each other well before consummating marriage.

To you who are now being born and will be marrying in the first decade that comes after the year 2,000: may you find marriage, in whatever form, as rich and satisfying as some of us did in the olden days when more was left to chance, love and romance.

Lee W. Stratman is a pastoral counselor who has been working with marriages and families in Alaska for more than 20 years. Readers may write to him at The Anchorage Times, P.O. Box 40, Anchorage 99510.

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Temporizing on marriage

Reprinted from **The Seattle Times**

ALASKA REPUBLICAN State Representative Mike Beirne may be serious when he suggests that trial marriages might make couples look at that institution more realistically. But the venerable institution seems to be having a hard enough time surviving without further temporizing about it.

Beirne suggests that Alaska couples be allowed to enter a marriage contract which has an expiration date. When the contract expires, the couple may go their separate ways or renew.

Part of the problem is figuring out how long the contract should last. For some couples, a day together may be too long. Others, committed to making a marriage work, may need several years.

HOW DOES BEIRNE intend to prevent temporary marriage from becoming a useful tool to

thwart the tax collector, or circumvent alien quotas?

Beirne says it's his intention to get people to take marriage seriously. Couples would agree before marriage on how to divide children and assets acquired during the union.

CAN HE REALLY mean that? Does Beirne truly believe valid life choices can be made for unborn, unknown children?

The way in which they are acquired and the amount of a couple's assets may drastically change their thinking about how those assets should be divided.

No contract can anticipate the future. But that is what Beirne plan would attempt to do. It presumes that people don't change, that lives can be meticulously charted. Any divorced person can tell Beirne how mistaken he is.

ALASKA FEVER

AND BE THERE ANYONE AMONG US WHO CAN SHOW JUST CAUSE WHY THIS COUPLE SHOULD NOT BE HIED, SPEAK NOW, OR FOR FIVE YEARS HOLD YOUR PEACE!



WEEK IN REVIEW

JERRY FLU

MIKE BEIRNE HASN'T LOST HIS SENSE OF HUMOR! HE'S KEEPING 'EM IN STITCHES WITH HIS 'CONTRACT MARRIAGE BILL!



DEAREST... WILL YOU MARRY ME FOR FIVE YEARS?

MAKE IT TEN YEARS WITH AN OPTION TO RENEW AND IT'S A DEAL!



DO YOU, THE PARTY OF THE FIRST PART, HENCEAFTER REFERRED TO AS JOHN, TAKE THIS PARTY OF THE SECOND PART, HERINAFTER REFERRED TO AS MARY, FOR YOUR LAWFULLY WEDDED SPOUSE?



DO YOU REALIZE I'VE ONLY GOT TWO YEARS LEFT TO GO ON MY MARRIAGE CONTRACT?

YOU'RE ONLY DOING FIVE YEARS! I'M IN FOR LIFE!



'Marriage tax' encourages divorce, discourages wedlock

By CAROL KRUCOFF
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — It's been called everything from a "sin subsidy" to a "divorce bonus" to a "marriage penalty." But by any name, "even the unprintable ones," says Washington postman Roscoe Barnes, "the tax structure still seems just plain unfair."

The Barneses are one of an estimated 20 million couples affected by the so-called "marriage tax" — which results in married couples with two incomes paying more tax than they would if they were single. With a combined income of roughly \$39,000, the Barneses will pay about \$1,400 more income tax than two single people with the same income.

"It's such a contradiction that a government says it's against immorality, yet penalizes you for being married," he says. "I've known people who wanted to get married, but lived together because it was cheaper."

"My wife and I discussed this, but we really wanted to be married in spite of the tax. I call it the price of love."

This "love price" wasn't always so dear. "The tax system was

devised years ago when most families had just one wage earner," says an aide to Sen. Charles Mathias, R-Md., who has introduced a bill that would allow married couples the option of filing separately using the rate schedule for single people.

"At that time married couples who filed jointly had a great advantage over single people. To remedy that, in 1969 Congress enacted a special rate schedule for singles. This created a 'marriage tax penalty' when single people with two incomes married."

The "penalty" has two sources. One is that, in effect, the second earner is taxed at a higher rate — since the first dollar of the second earner's income is taxed at the same rate as the last dollar made by the first earner. Also, married couples filing jointly are permitted a \$3,400 zero bracket amount (standard deduction), while singles get more than half that amount, \$2,300. (A married person filing separately is permitted \$1,700.)

Back when most families had just one earner, the "marriage tax" wasn't viewed as a large one. But as increasing numbers of women join the workforce, more and more couples are affected.

"More than half of all married women in the country are working," notes Rep. Millicent Fenwick, R-N.J., who has introduced a bill to eliminate the "marriage tax" each year since 1975.

"This means that more than half the nation's married taxpayers may be paying the 'marriage tax.' And experts estimate that anywhere from two-thirds to three-quarters of all married women under age 55 will be working by the end of the decade."

The biggest problem with the "tax on marriage," says Fenwick, "is that it encourages divorce and provides an incentive not to marry. I get letters from women who say, 'Hurry up and pass the bill. My husband's nagging me to get divorced to cut our taxes.'"

"Marriages are already under considerable strain. The tax is socially damaging."

Public awareness of the problem has also increased, fanned by press reports about couples like David and Angela Boyter, who have divorced three times and remarried twice to avoid paying the "marriage penalty."

WORK ORDER REQUEST FORM

112- 0165

KEYWORDS: marriage

ASSIGNED TO Cochran

REQUEST FOR: BILL RESOLUTION RESEARCH OTHER

SUBJECT Marriage of Limited Duration

REQUESTED FOR Rep. Cochran BY Cochran EXT. _____

DELIVER TO Representative Cochran TAKEN BY Marrier

INSTRUCTIONS, EXPLANATIONS Prepare for reintroduction as HR - 11th Legislature

authorizing marriage of limited duration.

OBTAIN

SPECIAL DRAFTING INSTRUCTIONS ATTACHED

AUTHORIZED TO CONFER WITH _____

RETURN _____

TO REQUESTER

APPROVED: _____ Director, Legal Services

REVIEWED _____

IN 1/23 DUE _____

TYPED - Draft _____ DATE _____

Final _____ DATE _____

PROOFED _____ DELIVERED _____

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS TO TYPIST/PROOFREADER

DRAFT

FINAL

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE - HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

IN SESSION:



POUCH V
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
TELEPHONE: (907) 468-3777

P.O. BOX 4-1539
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99509
TELEPHONE (907) 277-6219

REP. M. F. "MIKE" BEIRNE

MEMBER OF:
FIFTH STATE LEGISLATURE
NINTH STATE LEGISLATURE
TENTH STATE LEGISLATURE
ELEVENTH STATE LEGISLATURE
TWELFTH STATE LEGISLATURE

COMMITTEES:
HEALTH EDUCATION
AND SOCIAL SERVICES CHAIRMAN
AND LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

November 17, 1981

PRESS RELEASE

The House Health, Education and Social Services Committee, chaired by Representative Mike Beirne, will meet on Thursday, November 19th from 9am to 3pm and on Friday from 1-5pm and 7-9pm in the upstairs conference of the Anchorage Legislative Information Office, located at 1024 West 6th.

On Thursday, the committee will discuss 3 bills sponsored by Representative Beirne. The first two, House Bills 497 and 498, would legalize the concept known as surrogate parenting. Essentially they would allow a couple in which the wife is infertile, to contract with a "surrogate mother" for purposes of bearing that couple a child. The contract would stipulate that the "surrogate" would receive compensation for her time, services and related expenses.

A recent segment of "60 Minutes" dealt with the subject of surrogate parenting. They interviewed William Handel, a Los Angeles attorney who has formed the Surrogate Parenting Foundation. Mr. Handel has agreed to come to Alaska and speak at the hearing. In addition, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Morris, a Fairbanks couple, will also testify before the committee. Many of you may remember a recent newspaper article concerning the Morris' lack of success in adopting a child and their subsequent search for a surrogate mother.

The final bill on Thursday's agenda is HB 113, which would authorize marriages of limited duration.

On Friday, the committee will take testimony on House Bill 210 relating to joint custody of the children in a divorce. The intent of the legislation is to grant both parents equal opportunity to guide and nurture the children of the marriage.

The public is invited to participate in these hearings. We would however appreciate a call so we can add your name to the schedule. Please call Representative Beirne's office at 278-4912 or 277-5912.

LAW OFFICES
HOOD & LINDSEY
212 BEACON BUILDING
408 SOUTH BOULDER
TULSA, OKLAHOMA 74103

WM. W. HOOD, JR.
JIM L. LINDSEY

March 25, 1980

TELEPHONE
(918) 583-8888

The Honorable M. F. Beirne
House of Representatives
Box 4-1539
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Dear Representative Beirne:

I would appreciate receiving a copy of your proposed legislation, H.B. 678, dealing with trial marriage. I am interested in your reasons for submitting this bill, what ramifications you view would arise from its enactment, what you determine to be the chance of passage, and any other information available on your bill.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Brad Griffith

.TBG/rla

RECEIVED JUL 23 1980

RECEIVED JUL 23 1980

*to person
file*

7-17-80

Dear Mr. Beirne,

I hope this letter gets to you, I had no idea as to the address of where to reach you.

I read in a local Portland newspaper that you helped get a bill passed which allowed people of you state to marry with a two year contract, which is renewable.

I would like to find out more about this bill. Can people from other states come to Alaska and marry under this contract?

If you cannot pass along some information to me, will you please refer me to some one who can? Your time and information are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely

Phyllis Winike
8405 NW Ogden
Portland, Oregon 97231



FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tallahassee

Elaine Gordon
Representative 98th District

Reply to

☐ 11966 West Dixie Highway
Miami, Florida 33161
(305) 855-1088
(305) 451-8428 Faxcom

☐ 334 The Capitol
Tallahassee, Florida 32304
(904) 488-7000

Committees:

House Administration, Chairperson
Appropriations
Rules & Calendar
Corrections, Probation & Parole
Health & Rehabilitative Services
Regulatory Reform

Joint Legislative Management,
Chairperson
Joint Legislative Auditing

May 16, 1980

Dr. Michael Bierne
P. O. Box 1-1539
Anchorage, Alaska 99509

Dear Dr. Bierne:

Caught the Phil Donahue segment of the "Today" Show the other morning on which you were featured. I was most interested in the concept of Marriage of Limited Duration. I would greatly appreciate it if you would send me everything you have in print on this subject - articles, news clips etc..

Hoping to hear from you soon.

Yours Very Truly,

Elaine Gordon
Elaine Gordon
State Representative

EG/ef

April 2, 1980

Rep. Mike Beirne
Pouch V, Juneau, AK 99811

Sent
4/4/81

Dear Mr. Beirne:

I am a student at Metropolitan State College and I am writing a term paper on your proposed act on trial marriages.

I have received the House Bill No. 113 and would appreciate any further information you can send me.

A few specific questions brought to mind are as follow:

1. Was there a study done or statistics showing the comparison of marriages versus living together?
2. Can the automatic expiration date be of any length of time?
3. Is it possible to extend the time limit or must it only be rescinded?

Any additional information you can provide will be appreciated.

I am enclosing a five dollar check to cover any expenses for Xerox copies etc.

Sincerely,
Clinda L. Sainz
3175 W. Avondale Drive
Denver, Colorado 80204

International

Orthodox Jews Protest Use of Cars on Sabbath

JERUSALEM—A longstanding dispute between religious and nonreligious Jews over Sabbath automobile traffic reached a climax when about 15,000 ultra-Orthodox Jews converged upon the ridges overlooking a highway to protest the "desecration" of the Sabbath by motorists.

The demonstrators were also protesting a police raid on a *veshiva* (rabbinical seminary) in Jerusalem's ultra-Orthodox enclave, Mea She'arim.

The protest took place at a four-lane highway that leads to a new secular neighborhood called Ramot. The road skirts a string of religious suburbs in north Jerusalem, and has been the scene of violent clashes for almost two years.

In what has become almost a ritual, every Saturday hundreds of ultra-Orthodox Jews—*Haredim*—led by the anti-Zionist Neturei Karta sect from Mea She'arim, walk down to Ramot Road and shower passing vehicles with rocks to protest what they consider the sacrilege of using machines on the Sabbath.

The small Jewish sect, which believes that Jews do not have the right to establish a state until the appearance of the Messiah, has regularly provoked confrontations with Israeli police as a gesture of defiance of the government it refuses to recognize.

Tax Appeal Rejected for Church Holding No Services

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Supreme Court has rejected the appeal of an Illinois man on behalf of an organization he founded called the Western Catholic Church that had its tax exemption revoked by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

When S. Dean Slough organized the church in 1971 with his wife and daughter, he was given a tax exemption for it. Its purpose was described in the incorporation papers as "to embrace persons of all faiths, colors, and creeds, to join for a common cause the betterment of man, by helping God in spreading the Gospel."

In addition, the application for exemption said the organization proposed to build churches, colleges, nursing homes, and a hospital.

After investigating the church's activities in 1978, the IRS revoked its tax exemption.

The U.S. Tax Court in Washington and the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago agreed that the exemption should have been revoked because the church had no place of worship and conducted no public religious services, and its primary activity was investment of funds.

The U.S. Supreme Court unanimously voted without comment to let stand the lower court rulings that upheld the IRS.

Unlicensed Weddings Offered to Help Cut Taxes

CULVER CITY, California—John and Mary had the kind of wedding most parents want their children to have. They were married by a minister in church with traditional exchange of vows, prayers, flowers, and organ music. But, in the state's eyes, they are still just "living together."

This is exactly what John and Mary wanted. They, along with nearly a dozen couples recently married in Culver City the same way, don't care that the state doesn't recognize the marriage—as long as their church, family, and friends do.

In fact, a state-recognized marriage was what they wanted to avoid, along with the extra tax levied by the Internal Revenue Service on married couples filing joint income tax returns.

Grace Lutheran church and Akiba Temple of Culver City recently began offering licenseless marriage ceremonies to couples unhappy with the way the tax system treats two-income families. Akiba temple's rabbi Allen Maller said he began excluding the state from wedding ceremonies after a couple he married complained that their taxes had risen \$1,000 per year after he married them.

Maller called marriage a spiritual and emotional commitment rather than a legal, financial agreement. By encouraging licenseless marriages, he and Grace Lutheran's pastor Robert Johnson said they hoped to help eliminate the law's unfairness to two-income married couples.

For two paycheck families in which the wife earns at least 25 percent of the household income, the law now makes married couples pay more tax than two single people living together. Thus, if joint income totals \$44,000 a year, the married couple will have a tax bill of \$11,086, compared with only \$9,034 if the two did not marry. The so-called "marriage penalty" increases as income rises.

The disparity angers Maller. "There are so many forces today that are counterproductive to marriage that I don't think government should be doing anything to discourage it," he says.

Johnson adds that marriage has enough

pressures, "especially in an economic sense, without the government's pressuring it anymore."

The licenseless wedding service Johnson has developed differs only slightly from the one he uses for other couples. For the marriage not registered with the state, the minister says, "John and Mary, by their promises before God and in the presence of this congregation, have made themselves husband and wife."

Johnson's statement is that the man and woman marry themselves in the presence of God and witnesses. "We have simply removed any reference to civil authority," he explains.

The couple then receives a certificate that declares them to be "united in marriage according to the ordinance of God" and that looks very much like a state marriage license.

Johnson says that many people are unaware of the licenseless marriages, while others fear possible legal problems, and so not many couples have wanted to marry without state approval.

But the minister says there's little cause for concern. "No one should enter marriage thinking he may get divorced, but if divorce or death occurs, a legal agreement is as effective as a marriage license in setting things straight," he says.

Profit-making Mormon Center May Lose Tax Exemption

HAWAII, Hawaii—A Polynesian cultural center operated by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons) may lose its tax exemption because of its profitability.

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) recently decided that, since the center has grossed more than \$125 million since it opened in 1964, it is too profitable to be tax exempt. The decision, now being appealed, could cost the center \$9 million in back taxes.

"There was no problem when we had a loss," said Center Manager William Cravens. "Then when we started generating excess funds, they started looking at us."

The center was established on the island of Oahu to provide employment for students at the Hawaiian campus of Brigham Young University. It soon became a popular tourist attraction and began generating unanticipated profits.

"We did not establish the center to make a profit," said Baden Pere, director of cultural education at the university. "We established the center to further the education of the students and the community. We are assisting in the preservation of Polynesian cultures."



Alaska State Legislature

House of Representatives

February 16, 1981

Pouch V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Official Business

Everett Kytonen
8643 East 10th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99504

Dear Mr. Kytonen:

Thank you for your recent communication regarding my bill on marriages of limited duration.

When I introduced this bill originally it was at the request of constituents and voters who were very much in favor of this type of option being given to the people. They believed that by giving couples about to be married a choice, either being married in the traditional manner or setting a time limit on their marriage would strengthen marriages.

Today when the institution of marriage is ending in divorce approximately 50% of the time, there must be some way to strengthen our marriage system.

Psychologically speaking, people who have to renew their marriage license as they would their drivers licenses, are going to be much more attentive to the marriage, couples will not be putting off the problems that are common to every marriage but instead will be required to take a positive action in order to stay married. I believe it would create an incentive to work out any problems the marriage was having before whatever deadline had been agreed upon. In that way, the couple could again renew their vows for another limited duration or decide they really want to stay married forever.

One thing is for sure, nothing else has seemed to work and no one else has any better ideas. So let's try this proposal. It just might work!

I get a lot of criticism from this type of legislation and of course I get a lot of praise too. But by way of explanation, I want you to know that I didn't introduce this bill on the spur of the moment, or because I'm a "kook", or etc. but rather because I believe that something has to be done about a situation that is not getting any better, only getting worse.

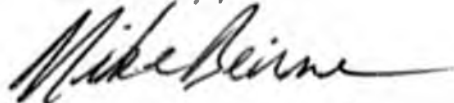
I've never been afraid to introduce legislation that is controversial. For example, I'm proud to tell you that I introduced

Home #)
373-9227

the first "no-smoking" bill back in 1967. In 1968 I introduced the first "drunk-driver" bill as well as a bill which would permit teenagers to seek medical treatment for venereal disease without the consent of their parents. For each of these I was strongly ridiculed throughout the newspapers and received many derogatory letters and telegrams, but I also received quite a bit of support. All of them were eventually passed and became law and I have to say that the results speak for themselves.

In addition, there is a lot of other legislation that I've been involved with that has been controversial over the years, and you can be sure that there will be a lot more. I am proud of my accomplishments and not afraid to introduce a bill that will be controversial. You'll be hearing from me a good deal more in the next 2 years and I would appreciate your support. Please keep letting me know your views on subjects.

Sincerely,



Representative Mike Beirne

BM: jz

Feb 19, 1981

Mike

- I appreciate your reply, Mike. However,
1. what about the "trial" children? ^{And don't say} there won't be ^{any!}
 2. We need more serious commitment decisions before an act, not less! your approach encourages more frivolous decisions, and a more frivolous attitude.
 3. About your other bills
 - (a) there has been some improvement in stopping the smoking problem in public places; however, tobacco is still being subsidized heavily by tax dollars
- (over)

(b) Drunk drivers are still driving
in huge numbers, and those driving
while under the influence of other
drugs (like hashish + cocaine)
has increased steadily.

(c) your bill on venereal disease
procedures promulgated
non-communication between
children and adults (parents)
rather than promulgating better
communication between children
and parents which is the serious
need.

Mike, what is needed now is less
legislation. Every individual should
become more self-decisive, self-reliant,
under freedom from legislation. More
and more legislation has ruined
our society! Enough!

4.21.57

~~Jans~~

Prepare letter to Com.
of 1st referral requesting
a hearing.

Also, on all Bill, letters
requesting hearings must
be sent formally, or we
won't get response.

As which Bills to refer -
we need to go on the list.



Be introduced as a doctor

4-15-80 Chicago:

How Come? 2 yrs. ago:

2 versions:

- 1) Band of the Boys
- 2) True - CONSERVATIVE citizen in my pol. DIST. re. ↑ divorce rate.

● We came up to the idea that for those people unwilling or unable to enter the trad. marr. a marr. & a time limit on it might encourage them to get marr.

How?

Ex. Simply specify a legal agreement re. 1) Time 2) assets

We believe this may be a solution:

- 1. Strengthen
- 2. Romance

WORKS just like a DRIVER'S LIC

women 50% file
Too young
↓

- Div. of Assets: should reduce requirements over money

- No more than 40 lbs. mother-in-law

- 1/3 to 1/2 marriages end in Div. No solution offered yet - This may be it!

- Convert any time to TRAD. OR VICE VERSA.

- For 200 yrs. a Christian Nation + divorce ↑, 50% now, maybe 100% so present system questionable.

SUNSET MARRIAGE
rent-a-wife Bill

TRIAL MARRIAGES
Nonsexual 160 - need to see wife there

Co-sponsors

- Romance ✓
- 1 yr Research
- most serious contract ✓ yet easiest to get into most diff. "in" out of!
- Churches
- Women

"TAKE ea. other for granted."

- Eliminates divorces!

This is a "real" marriage.

- IF NO CHILDREN, no problem

- Current "solutions" NOT working!

Like a DRIVER'S LICENSE. ✓

The LEVER!

This is really a 1st SERIOUS effort

Strengthen marriage

expand options

2nd - a lot of people just can't bear the thought of unlimited time period

- UNWILLING OR unable

- Easiest + most difficult + most serious

3rd - auto. term. of marriage contract is terribly imp.

If they really want to stay married, then they can renew ^{both} vows + stay married

i.e. a positive action is required.

4th Written Agreement a pre-marital legal.

- NOT FOR everybody!
- ROMANCE

DONAHUE
DONAHUE DONAHUE DONAHUE
Telephone 312-528-2311
101 Bradley Place, Chicago, Illinois 60618

May 19, 1980

Representative Michael S. Bierne
P.O. Box 4-1539
Anchorage, Alaska 99059

Dear Representative Bierne,

We would like to thank you for participating on DONAHUE ON
TODAY. Your presentation was both informative and interesting.

Our audience response to the segment was very complimentary.

Once again, our deepest thanks and we wish you the best of luck
in the future.

Sincerely,

Wendy Roth
Wendy Roth
Producer

Denise Lanton
Denise Lanton
Production Assistant.



Alaska State Legislature

House of Representatives

Official Business

January 20, 1981

Pouch V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

TO: Legal Services
FROM: Representative Mike Beirne
REGARDING: Bill Drafting Request

I plan on re-introducing this bill pertaining to marriages of limited duration. Please have a new version drafted.

POSITION PAPER ON HOUSE BILL ~~678~~ 113

The purpose of this House Bill ¹¹³ ~~678~~ is to expand and maximize the freedoms of action available to partners in a marriage contract, and to more clearly identify their legal rights. This will serve significantly to strengthen the institution of marriage. Remember that marriage is both a spiritual and legal agreement.

The traditional marriage contract as provided in the law today and supported by religions, does not specify the duration of the marriage, but it is generally understood to be "till death do us part". Nor does the present law require a premarital written legal agreement dealing with the various legal rights of the partners in the properties and belongings of the partners acquired before marriage, and to be acquired during the marriage. This bill addresses those particular legal concerns in a marriage, but does not address the spiritual aspects of the marriage, nor does it affect the spiritual aspects of the marriage.

Today, when fully one-third of all marriages end in divorce; when domestic violence is at an all time high and no relief appears in sight; when illegitimate children cry for recognition; when the legal rights of women are practically ignored or receive only scant attention; when marriage counselors report that "being taken for granted" is the single, most loudly raised complaint by partners in a marriage; when contested and protracted divorce actions may

exhaust limited family financial resources; when abandonment of the family is selected by an increasing percentage of the partners as a solution to an intolerable marriage situation; when rape, alcoholism, child abuse, suicide and incest are all at record levels, then it would seem reasonable that a law that could provide relief to the married partners should be forthcoming. The law should require a clear understanding of the legal rights of the partners, and this should be in the form of a premarital written legal agreement completed at the time the marriage certificate is secured, and filed with and attached to the marriage certificate as a permanent part of the record.

For some couples, the traditional marriage maybe the only way to go. For others, a definite time limit on the marriage maybe most desirable. A lot of people just can't bear the thought of an unlimited time period as provided in the traditional marriage contract. These people may be unwilling or unable to marry under this condition, or for many other reasons. A time limit on the marriage encourages these people to enter into marriage. Presently, these people choose not to marry because of the legal difficulties they envision in terminating the marriage, preferring to live together in the unmarried state, in sin if you will, a trend that is increasingly more attractive to the younger people.

Marriage is the most serious contract one will ever sign, and yet it is the easiest to get into, and can be the most difficult to get out of. It frightens people

because the legal problems can be so difficult. And yet, there is no training or schooling or preparation or education required or given to most couples before they sign this contract and get married. By having written agreements on the legal aspects of the marriage, many problems can be avoided. Having a time limit on the marriage, so that the marriage automatically dissolves at a given moment unless renewed by the partners, should eliminate a great deal of the fear that many people today have of being trapped.

House Bill 678 is a sincere and serious effort to strengthen the institution of marriage by encouraging more people to marry as an alternative to their present situation. This proposal does not affect the spiritual aspect of marriage, only the legal.

House Bill 678 provides an automatic termination of marriage, unless the partners sit down and renegotiate the legal agreement, and file it with the court again. It can be the same legal agreement originally signed at the beginning of the marriage, or an entirely new one. But by requiring a written legal agreement before being married, we can eliminate most of the legal problems that weaken the marriage. Women's legal rights to properties are for the first time legally addressed and identified.

I would assume that the legislature would place a minimum time on the marriage such as one year, although most couples would probably prefer a longer term such as five years or 10 years. But no matter what time limit is put on

the marriage, when that time period is up, the marriage automatically terminates unless a new written agreement is reached. The indefinite postponement of negotiated solutions to marital problems is a evil seed that can grow and destroy the relationship. A time limit certain placed on the marriage encourages couples to sit down together and work out the differences, instead of indefinitely postponing the confrontation.

For religious reasons, in most traditional marriages, the couples periodically renew their marital vows. Under this House Bill 678, couples would be required to renew their legal vows, as well as their spiritual vows. If people really want to stay married, they will rewrite their agreement. In other words, a positive action is required on the part of the partners in order to stay married. So frequently people stay married because it is too much of a hassle to divorce, and this can be a negative action.

When partners are required to take this positive action to preserve their marriage, I believe they will be much more attentive to each other's needs, and we may even bring romance back into the marriage.

Let's not be afraid of a new idea. Divorce rates are steadily increasing in this country and no solution has been found. House Bill 678 could be a real solution, and is offered in good faith and in good conscience. No one else has the answer. Let's be strong enough to try a new idea.

Dr. M. F. "Mike" Beirne
Alaska State Representative

February, 1980

SOUTHEAST ALASKA EMPIRE

The Capital City's Daily Newspaper
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1980

12 PAGES

'Sunset' marriage proposed

By LAURA ZAHN
Empire Staff Reporter

"Sunset" legislation, which provides for automatic expiration of a particular agency on a specific date, is commonly accepted.

But "sunset marriage?"

Hep. Mike Beirne, R-Anchorage, today introduced House Bill 678, providing for legal "marriages of limited duration."

Under the bill, a couple of opposite sex could pay \$100 and enter into a marriage agreement for a stated amount of time, after which the marriage expires. By filing proper statements, the marriage can be renewed before expiration, or the expiration date can be eliminated.

The bill noted the measure was not intended to undermine the morals of American society.

Instead, its purpose is "to provide an alternative to traditional marriage of unlimited duration by all persons who wish to deepen their commitment, but, for various reasons, are unwilling or unable to make a lifetime commitment," the bill said.

The measure would make such a relationship legally recognized. Under the new criminal code effective Jan. 1, cohabitation is legal in Alaska.

Child custody and support, under the limited marriage bill, would be settled by the same means as traditional divorces.

The bill's preamble listed high divorce rates, often with "ugly consequences," and increasingly frequent co-habitation as reasons for the bill.

Many representatives, listening to the chief clerk reading the title of the bill for the first time, reacted with exhibited puzzled expressions or broke out in laughter. Joking began immediately upon adjournment about the possibility of one-day, two-week, or even two-hour marriages.

Beirne, who had no co-sponsors for the bill this morning, was not immediately available for comment.



Rep. Mike Beirne: Proposes 'sunset' bill for marriages.

Photo by Mark Kobby

Anchorage office plan prepared

By Empire Staff

Commissioner of Administration Bill Hudson will later this week submit to Gov. Jay Hammond a formal plan to consolidate all state offices in the Anchorage area.

Hudson, citing the inefficiency of having state government services spread around nearly 100 buildings in Anchorage, said he may propose an office park complex, consolidating all the state offices

He said a new state office building would also save money by cutting state telephone costs and line charges for computer terminals.

Hudson said he hopes to recommend a location to the governor this week. "People from throughout the state will be trying to reach

the complex, so we need a location which will be convenient for everyone, for people from Wasilla and Palmer besides just Anchorage workers," Hudson said.

Hammond said in a Jan. 16 interview with the Empire he supported consolidating state agencies in Anchorage.

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Beirne introduces bill allowing trial marriages

Associated Press

Juneau — The traditional "till death do us part" marriage vow shouldn't be the only way to tie the knot, says an Anchorage legislator who wants Alaska to be the first state to allow trial marriages.

Republican Rep. Mike Beirne today introduced a bill to allow couples to get married for a specific time period agreed on in advance by the man and the woman.

The "marriage contract" would automatically expire when the time period is up unless both members agree to renew the pact.

If married people don't want to renew their vows, then they shouldn't be married," said Beirne.

Beirne said he introduced the measure in recognition of the many unmarried Alaskans who are living together because they feel traditional marriage does not meet their needs.

"This would increase the options available to the people," Beirne said.

Before tying the knot, couples would be required to write an agreement outlining the disposition of assets acquired before or during marriage and custody arrangements for any children who might be born during the marriage.

"This compels the parties to think realistically and practically about what they're doing," Beirne said. "Today people are jumping into a marriage contract very easily without any serious deliberations or concern for the consequences."

The bill would allow a couple married under current law to file before a state court to have a time limit put on their marriage.

Beirne said legislative researchers checked with all other states but did not find any similar legislation on the books.

HB 113

2/10/81 - Wants to testify
on the Bill - notified him
to send Clocksin a
letter encouraging him to
hear the bill.

HB 113

Heri Berkowitz
3216 Madison Way
Anchorage Ak 99504

(w) 276-5121

(H) 274-4724

July 1981
G. J. C. & P. M.

Harry Blomson
John Reese
Sandra Sewell

Beirne backs Moral Majority

Our Juneau bureau

JUNEAU — They may disagree with his pet bill on marriage, but Anchorage Rep. Mike Beirne says he's all behind the Moral Majority movement.

"In the long run, the Moral Majority people are going to strengthen the Republican Party," Beirne told a gathering of local GCP members Tuesday.

The Republican legislator conceded that recent inroads the religious-oriented movement had made in Alaska Republican party caucuses resulted in the ousting of veteran party workers.

However, he said, "this new blood" would help attract more members to the party.

A bill Beirne has sponsored to allow marriages of limited duration provoked opposition from people who identified themselves as members of the Moral Majority movement, he said.

"But when I explained to some of them what the bill was about, they didn't think it was such a bad idea," Beirne said.

The legislation would give couples the option of ending their marriage on a certain date, or extending it, by contract. Although the bill has little or no chance of passing this year, it has gained Beirne national publicity.

Last week, he flew to Los Angeles for an appearance on the "Dinah Shore Show" to discuss the bill.

The syndicated show, which isn't seen in Alaska, is scheduled for national showing on April 1.

God and marriage

Dear Editor:
Some people informed me that they read about a temporary marriage agreement pro-aimed by Mike Beirne. I read the articles, but received a different connotation. I new God had made some new rules for the families of the future.
Sorry, I am too old (76) to change for a new God and my old one said, "mayhap God hath joined together, let

no man put asunder."
I pray that Rep. Beirne will find his place in life and it will not be in the government where he will have any influence upon young people. Were I to put forth such tragic statements concerning sacred marriage, my knowledge of God's word would cause me to shake with fear.
Wayne Pinguoch
Wasilla

3-26-90

the Alaska Ear



QUESTIONS THAT NEED TO BE ASKED AT LEAST ONCE... Is it true that one Anchorage legislator has asked the legal staff in Juneau to research a bill that would allow a woman legally to carry and give birth to a child for a married couple? And does this have anything to do with the zany "contract marriage" idea suggested a month ago?... Is Ken Ott, former managing director of the Anchorage Performing Arts Center, now director of development for the Pasadena (Calif.) Playhouse? And what does a development director do for a playhouse?

Wednesday, February 13, 1990, The Anchorage Times A-7

Letters to the editor

EDITORIAL PAGE

The Anchorage Times

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Wednesday, March 8, 1990

What others say

From The Southeast Alaska Empire, Juneau

IF REP. MIKE Beirne's HB 678 is intended to strengthen the institution of marriage, we believe it has missed its mark. In fact, to continue in the sports vein, it missed the ballpark. Institutions are just that. They cannot and should not be changed by

the stroke of a legislator's pen. And even if they could, marriage is about the last institution a legislature should meddle in.

We have every faith that the legislature will give HB 678 the attention it deserves.

Trial marriage bill

Dear Editor:

When the organization of the Moral Majority was announced and its purpose became known, there were some cries of protest, some even coming from the clergy of Anchorage, insinuating a violation of the separation of church and state on the church's part.

The violation is there all right, but as usual it is the state's. A prime example of the state meddling in church's affairs, is Rep. Mike Beirne's bill for trial marriages.

The precepts of marriage are found in the Holy Bible, not in the laws of the State of Alaska. Marriage is a Holy Sacrament and was instituted by God Almighty in the garden of Eden. Romans 7:23 declares that a marriage can be annulled by death only, not by the whim of some politicians. Jesus Christ said in Matthew 19:6, "What therefore God hath joined together, let no man put asunder."

I would think there is enough state business for Rep. Beirne to be involved with, without trying to legislate morality.

Gary Frackman
611 Roger Drive

Beirne: Bill could 'strengthen' marriage

By LAURA ZAHN

Empire Staff Reporter

Anchorage Rep. Mike Beirne, who Tuesday introduced legislation to legalize "marriages of limited duration," said he thinks his bill will help strengthen the institution of marriage.

Under House Bill 67A, couples could file a written agreement with their marriage license, stating the number of years for which they wish to be married. If the agreement is not renewed with the court, the marriage will

automatically dissolve on the specified date.

The bill is designed to allow persons "who, for various reasons, are unwilling or unable to make a lifetime commitment" to enter into an alternative to traditional marriage.

"This will strengthen the institution of marriage because you have to make positive affirmation of the marriage on a periodic basis," Beirne said in an interview Tuesday.

"I think this would conform

very nicely with what churches have been preaching for years—reassessment of the marriage and renewing of vows."

While Beirne said he is being accused of "trying to legalize the weekend tryst," he claims his bill will, instead, provide a way out of morally objectionable situations.

"It's encouraged as an alternative to 'bring in sin' to marry," he said. Cohabitation, already legal in the state, is practiced by "a substantial percentage of

Alaskans) and growing."

Because of the changing population and young age of the majority, "this is the best state in the union to try this idea out." It is also the only state to consider doing so, he said.

"It will strengthen a weakening institution by legally weakening it but making it spiritually stronger," Beirne said.

The key, he claims, is the written agreement, which costs \$100 to be filed with the marriage license. No attorney is necessary

to help fill out the form provided by the state.

In the agreement, the couple would specify the number of years they wished to be married, and who would get what income and articles should the marriage not be renewed.

Child custody could be stipulated in the agreement, but if a dispute arises, it must be settled by the court, as in divorce.

Beirne said his idea puts a "burden of proof" on the couple who wants to stay together, for-

ing them to take action to keep the marriage in existence—literally. Without action, it would expire.

"Always before, you had to fight your way out," he said. "There are lots of people who are living together who don't want to be," but they do so because of the "until death do us part" belief or because of the "hassle" of divorce.

An expressible marriage would force couples to think about terms of the agreement.

How will future treat marriage?

by Lee W. Stratman

I recall back in my junior high school days running through my neighborhood and Mrs. Blatt, the mayor's wife, hailing me from her back porch. "Come here," she said. "I have a little miracle for you."

When I approached my queen-sized neighbor she had in her hand a paper napkin wrapped around an ice cube. It was the first home refrigerator ice cube I had ever seen. I was familiar with one 10-, 25- and 30-pound blocks which the iceman brought over his shoulder. But an ice cube manufactured in your own kitchen — that was different.

I was ushered into the Blatt's kitchen and there was a large white chest with a kind of bird cage on top. Mrs. Blatt showed me the ice cube trays and even suggested that ice cream could also be made therein.

Mrs. Blatt used the occasion to act as a prophetess. The time would come, she said, when all homes would have a refrigerator and ice cubes and even frozen food.

I don't prophesy about ice cubes or frozen foods, but I sometimes like to lie back in my chair and think about marriages of the future — say about the year 2000.

I hope the future brings formal education for marriage, with courses not only about sexual relationships but also about conducting family business, communication, roles of spouses, child care, and other such important things.

I hope that in the future a license to marry will require more than vital statistics and a blood test for syphilis. I hope there will be, as technology proceeds, a complete screening for genetic difficulties and possible birth defects. I hope there will also be a real physical examination of parts involved in child bearing.

If the world keeps a-crowding,

ABOUT MARRIAGE

there may also be a license to have a child or children. Most sociologists see more governmental control coming. The good breeding stock will be licensed to multiply and replenish the few available spots on the earth. Who will determine who is the best breeding stock will have to be decided. Chances are good it will be a committee and its deliberations will take years, judging by the way bureaucracy is going in this era.

In the future, more couples will elect not to have children, as we see even now. I believe it is a good trend because it means that only those who wish to work with children will have them. Those who do choose children should have extensive parent education. High school or college classes should equip persons to make decisions about breast or bottle feeding, how to discipline the little nipers and how to furnish them with an ethical sense.

In the future it will also be more acceptable for persons to remain single and not marry. Back in the by-gone days of 1940 I remember how Aunt Laura was a curiosity because

she never married. People suggested that there was something wrong with her disposition and referred to her as an Old Maid. There was an idea in that time that marriage was natural and the single life unnatural; thank heavens we have gotten over that myth.

I suspect that priorities of married couples in the future will also be different. It appears that the one family dwelling — usually a first acquisition — may not be accessible to the rank and file. The apartment, the condominium and perhaps some new housing unit may be the way to go as prices for individual homes skyrocket.

If persons remain as mobile as they are and pleasure trips continue to increase in price with escalating oil costs, some substitute is going to have to be found for the extended family. Grandpas and Grandmas are too far away to care for skinned knees and education in chess or checkers. I have always felt the church ought to provide surrogate aunts, uncles, grandmothers and grandfathers for our children when

they are young.

Will marriage continue to exist in 2000? I firmly believe it will, although it will continue to change.

I believe people will want more intimate marriages with partners who will communicate and offer emotional support. The strong silent husband will be as extinct as the Dodo bird by the year the new millennium begins.

Some authorities believe there will be a 3- to 5-year trial marriage in the future. I find it hard to conceive that a temporary relationship can prepare one for a permanent one but there would be some merit in knowing each other well before consummating marriage.

To you who are now being born and will be marrying in the first decade that comes after the year 2,000: may you find marriage, in whatever form, as rich and satisfying as some of us did in the olden days when more was left to chance, love and romance.

Lee W. Stratman is a pastoral counselor who has been working with marriages and families in Alaska for more than 20 years. Readers may write to him at The Anchorage Times, P.O. Box 40, Anchorage 99510.

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Temporizing on marriage

Reprinted from The Seattle Times

ALASKA REPUBLICAN State Representative Mike Belme may be serious when he suggests that trial marriages might make couples look at that institution more realistically. But the venerable institution seems to be having a hard enough time surviving without further temporizing about it.

Belme suggests that Alaska couples be allowed to enter a marriage contract which has an expiration date. When the contract expires, the couple may go their separate ways or renew.

Part of the problem is figuring out how long the contract should last. For some couples, a day together may be too long. Others, committed to making a marriage work, may need several years.

HOW DOES BELME intend to prevent temporary marriage from becoming a useful tool to

thwart the tax collector, or circumvent alien quotas?

Belme says it's his intention to get people to take marriage seriously. Couples would agree before marriage on how to divide children and assets acquired during the union.

CAN HE REALLY mean that? Does Belme truly believe valid life choices can be made for unborn, unknown children?

The way in which they are acquired and the amount of a couple's assets may drastically change their thinking about how those assets should be divided.

No contract can anticipate the future. But that is what Belme plan would attempt to do. It presumes that people don't change, that lives can be meticulously charted. Any divorced person can tell Belme how mistaken he is.

ALASKA FEVER

AND BE THERE ANYONE AMONG US WHO CAN SHOW JUST CAUSE WHY THIS COUPLE SHOULD NOT BE WED, SPEAK NOW, OR FOR FIVE YEARS HOLD YOUR PEACE!



Jerry Raw

THEY'RE MARRIED TOGETHER AT THE ALTAR



MIKE BEIRNE,
HASN'T LOST HIS
SENSE OF HUMOR!
HE'S KEEPING 'EM
IN STITCHES WITH
HIS 'CONTRACT'
MARRIAGE BILL!



DEAREST,
WILL YOU
MARRY ME
FOR FIVE
YEARS?

MAKE
IT TEN
YEARS
WITH AN
OPTION TO
RENEW
AND IT'S
A DEAL!

DO YOU, THE PARTY
OF THE FIRST PART,
HEREINAFTER REFERRED
TO AS JOHN, TAKE
THIS PARTY OF
THE SECOND PART,
HEREINAFTER REFERRED
TO AS MARY, FOR
YOUR LAWFULLY
WEDDED SPOUSE?



DO YOU REALIZE
I'VE ONLY GOT TWO
YEARS LEFT TO GO
ON MY MARRIAGE
CONTRACT?

YOU'RE ONLY
DOING FIVE YEARS?
I'M IN FOR
LIFE!



SUITE 700
810 L STREET
ANCHORAGE 99501

February 11, 1981

Representative Don Clocksin
Alaska State Legislative
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Representative Clockson:

I understand that House Bill 113, entitled "an Act authorizing marriages of limited duration" has been referred to the Committee on Health, Education & Social Services. I hope that you, as Chair of the committee, hold hearings on that Bill.

I consider Representative Beirne's Bill an extremely imaginative and innovative attempt to come to grips with the current state of male-female relationships. I am strongly in favor of such legislation and would be willing, my schedule permitting, to fly to Juneau at my own expense to testify in its favor.

I therefore believe that hearings would serve a useful purpose and urge you to hold hearings on that Bill.

Very truly yours,



Herb Berkowitz

HB:kw

October 13, 1981

Dr. Mike Beirne
State Representative
PO Box 4-1539
Anchorage, AK 99509

Dear Dr. Beirne,

In September I phoned your office and requested information on HB 113, contract marriages. The material I received was extremely good, and I would like to express my appreciation.

The material was used to present a program to Gamma Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi, a cultural sorority. Although the bill failed to pass at the last session, I would still like to pass along to you the reactions of the group.

There were 14 women present, ranging in age from about 19 to 40; mostly middle class; mostly married, with about half holding a job outside of the home. The discussion was heated, with some members being very much against the idea of a trial marriage. Surprisingly, few of the women had even heard of the proposed bill. A summary of some of the comments was that a trial marriage would give couples a casual attitude toward the marriage; that it would create a worse problem for children (i.e. trying to keep step-parents straight, etc.); and that it was unnecessary because divorce makes it reasonably easy to end a marriage anyway. It was also mentioned that other people maybe should have the right to choose a trial marriage, even though we do not feel it would be right for us.

At the end of the discussion, the members were asked to "vote" on the proposed bill; here are the results: 2 yes votes, 2 maybe votes, and 10 no votes.

(B)

Page 2

Again, thank you for providing us with
the material which proved to be informative,
thought-provoking and enjoyable.

Sincerely,

Beth Hazen

Beth Hazen

Premarital agreements are becoming common

By FRED FERRETTI
The New York Times

NEW YORK — "The time to agree to disagree is when there is love in your heart and a smile on your lips," said Cecile C. Weich the other day to women gathered at the Chase Exchange to hear her talk about premarital and pre-living-together agreements. Such agreements are becoming more common these days, she says, because women have more tangible assets than they used to.

"Women enter such agreements as equals these days," she said. "They have bargaining power."

Mrs. Weich, a matrimonial lawyer for more than 22 years, spoke to members of the Chase Exchange as part of its financial seminars program. The Exchange is a financial services program begun in October 1980 to help women manage their money.

A striking woman in white trousers and shirt, white long outer coat with a white handkerchief draped from a breast pocket, and white wide-brimmed felt hat with a band of white feathers, Mrs. Weich spent the better part of an hour answering questions that she said later were typical of those asked by clients who seek her help in preparing binding premarital and pre-living-together agreements.

Here are questions she considers the most pertinent and her answers:

□ Q. What sorts of considerations can be put in such agreements?

A. Any assets, any property, how children are to be nurtured, how work within the shared home shall be divided, how property shall be distributed in the event that the union is dissolved. Sex, how often, how much, shall a bedroom be shared, shall a bed?

All these can and are put into such agreements. You can even put in who should do the dishes and when.

Anything can be put into an agreement except that which is illegal or contrary to public policy.

□ Q. Do the courts recognize these agreements?

A. They have been recognized by the Court of Appeals since 1877 and were legalized in

Two people seeking to draw up a pre-nuptial agreement came to me, a man, divorced, with two children, and a woman, divorced. We talked about two and a half hours and at the end of it the man concluded that although he wanted to "share everything," he was not willing to give up his pension rights, which he had earmarked for his children.

When the woman suggested that they might have children together and what then would he do for those children, he said he would start a new pension. Well, she, and they, had never contemplated that, and they walked right out of the office.

by the Court or Appeals since 1877 and were legalized in New York by statute in 1964

Q. If you are already married can an agreement be drawn up?

A. Absolutely, two people can agree to anything.

Q. Does one need a lawyer for such agreements?

A. Two attorneys should be used, just as you would in any business partnership. I never represent two parties to an agreement.

Q. Can drawing up a will be part of such agreements?

A. Yes, and what's more, depending upon the location of the real property involved in the agreement, you can dictate which state's laws you wish your estate to be governed by. For example, you can state that property be governed by equitable distribution in New York, whereas in New Jersey, as of 1980, there is a community property law. Simply, equitable distribution means distribution in fairness, community property means each person owns everything.

Q. In drawing a will as part of a living-together agreement, can you appoint your partner guardian of your child, despite the fact that his natural father might be alive?

A. Generally, I would say no. The biological parent is usually given custody, even maternal or paternal grandparents, even aunts or uncles. I would say not, perhaps because it would seem contrary to public policy.

Q. Is there any financial advantage to a woman of marriage over a living-together arrangement?

A. Financially, no. I can't speak in terms of emotions however.

Q. Are marriages made outside of the United States recognized here in terms of any agreements made in connection with them?

A. Yes, and the same is true with marriages in other states.

Q. After an agreement is made, can codicils be added, can changes be made, additions, deletions?

A. Yes, so long as they are done before witnesses.

Q. In sum, will an agreement carefully drawn up protect you from financial harm if the union breaks up?

A. Of course, if it is properly drawn up, ironclad, it should positively protect you. Let me give you an example of how the procedure works and what can happen when an agreement is contemplated:

*Re
Contract*



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
 RESEARCH AGENCY

Pouch Y, State Capitol
 Juneau, Alaska 99811
 (907) 465-3991

February 20, 1981

TO: Representative Mile Beirne
 FROM: Christine Johnson *Johnson*
 Research Staff
 SUBJECT: Research Request No. 81-44
 Marriages and Divorces

We have prepared the following information in response to your request regarding marriages and divorces in Alaska since 1975. As you probably know, the Department of Health and Social Services is responsible for collecting this kind of information. The Department is just completing its 1979 Alaska vital statistics report; no data for 1980 is available yet.

TABLE 1
 Alaska Marriages and Divorces
 1975 - 1979

		1975	1976	1977	1978	1979
<u>Marriages</u>	Number	4734	4893	5143	5111	4990
	Rate*	11.7	11.8	12.5	12.3	12.0
<u>Divorces</u>	Number	2865	3210	3581	3468	3483
	Rate*		7.8	8.7	8.3	8.6

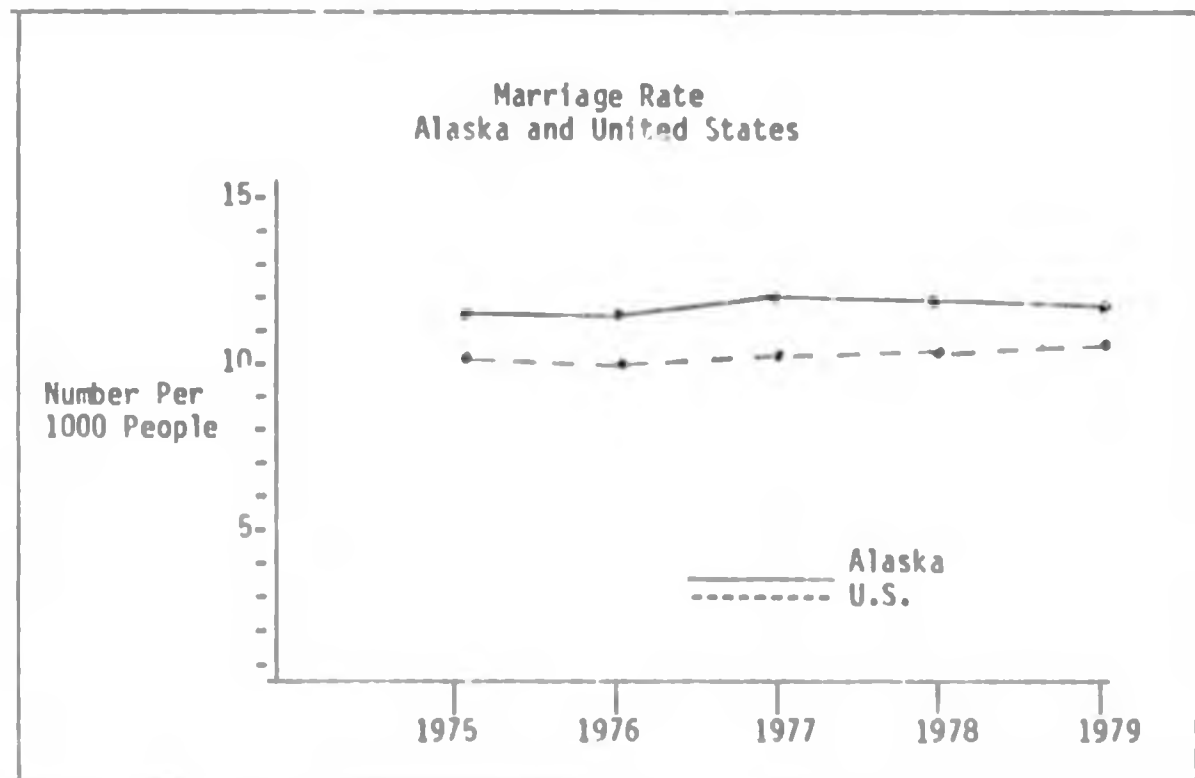
* Number per 1000 people.

Source: Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Alaska Vital Statistics 1978 and Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Office of Information Systems, 2/18/81.

The number of marriages in Alaska rose between 1975 and 1977, but decreased between 1977 and 1979. The number of marriages in 1979 represents a 5% increase over the number reported for 1975. As Figure 1 shows, Alaska's

marriage rate is higher than the national marriage rate. This may be due to the fact that Alaska has a young population compared to the rest of the county.

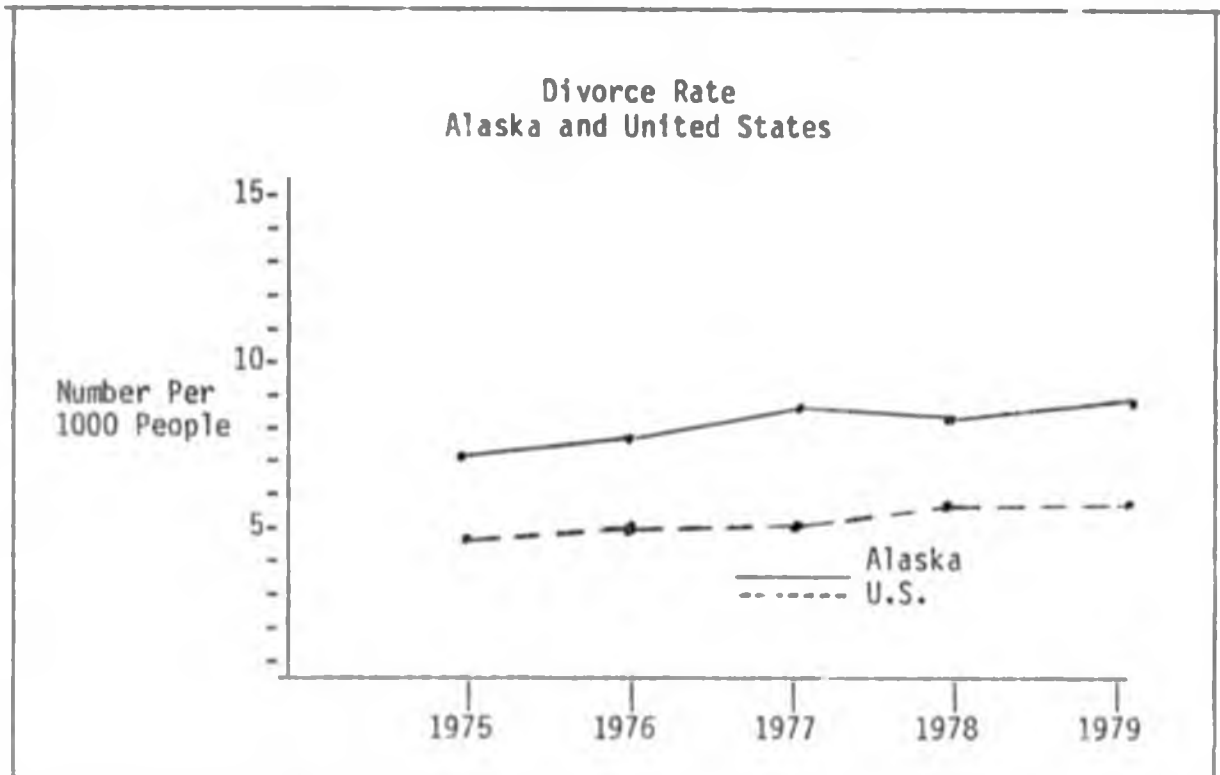
FIGURE 1



Source: Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Alaska Vital Statistics Report 1978, and Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Office of Information Systems, 2/18/81.

Alaska's divorce rate has shown a more steady increase since 1975 than its marriage rate. In 1979, there were 22% more divorces in the state than there were in 1975. The state's divorce rate is significantly higher than the national rate, and has been increasing at a faster pace, as shown on Figure 2.

FIGURE 2



Source: Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Alaska Vital Statistics Report 1978 and Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Office of Information Systems.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you need any further information.

CJ/cj

POSITION PAPER

HOUSE BILL NO. 113

"An Act authorizing marriages of limited duration."

House Bill No. 113 amends AS 25.05 by adding a new section which allows for filing for a marriage of limited duration which would expire at the end of the agreed upon time unless renewed.

We perceive a fiscal impact on our Bureau of Vital Records. That Bureau is the central depository of all original certificates of vital events. Certificates of Marriage of limited duration would be processed in the same manner as marriage of unlimited duration.

The impact on this Bureau will be in the design of three new forms: the agreement, the renewal and the termination, and in the distribution to and training of the 250 or more current licensing officers throughout Alaska.

RECOMMENDED BY:

Joan P. Brooks
JOAN P. BROOKS
STATE REGISTRAR
BUREAU OF VITAL
STATISTICS

DATE:

February 23, 1982

APPROVED BY:

H. D. Beirne
HELEN D. BEIRNE
COMMISSIONER
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH &
SOCIAL SERVICES

DATE:

2-23-82

THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWELFTH LEGISLATURE

FISCAL NOTE

I. REQUEST

Bill/Resolution No. House Bill No. 113
 Title "An Act authorizing marriages of limited duration"
 Requested by Representative Beirne Date 2/11/82

II. FISCAL DETAIL

Agency Affected Department of Health & Social Services
 Program Category Affected Administrative Services/Vital Statistics
 BRU, Program, Or Subprogram(s) Affected
 (Note: If more than one budget component is affected, separate line-item amounts and funding for each component in the analysis section.)

EXPENDITURES (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87
100 PERSONAL SERVICES						
200 TRAVEL						
300 CONTRACTUAL	3.5	1.5	1.8	2.0	2.5	3.0
400 COMMODITIES						
500 EQUIPMENT						
600 LAND & STRUCTURES						
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS, ETC.						
TOTAL	3.5	1.5	1.8	2.0	2.5	3.0

FUNDING (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87
GENERAL FUND	3.5	1.5	1.8	2.0	2.5	3.0
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER (Specify Source)						

POSITIONS

	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87
FULL TIME						
PART TIME						
TEMPORARY						

III. ANALYSIS (See Fiscal Note Preparation Instruction, Section III)

A. Assumptions

- Form design (in-house)
- Initial order of forms double that of ensuing years.

B. Program Summary

Contractuals: Design, set up and printing of forms: 14.3

IV. DATE Feb. 16, 1982 PREPARED BY Dean P. Brooks, JCC
 AGENCY D.H.S.S.
 PHONE 465-3391
 Original: Legislative Finance
 cc: Budget and Management
 Prime Sponsor (First Legislator Named)
 33-001 (Rev. 12/81)



Official Business

Alaska State Legislature

House of Representatives

Committee on

Health, Education & Social Services

Pouch V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

SECTIONAL ANALYSIS

House Bill 113: An Act authorizing marriages of limited duration.

Section 1. Findings and Purpose.

The traditional marriage has not met the needs or aspirations of many Alaskans and as a result many are living together out of wedlock. However, marriage imbues a man-woman relationship with special significance in the minds and hearts of most Alaskans. This bill allows persons who wish to deepen their commitment, but who are unable or unwilling to make a life-time commitment, to enter into a legally recognized relationship. In the event of nonrenewal of the marriage, the ugly consequences of divorce may be minimized. The Act does not intend to affect the validity of marriages of unlimited duration nor undermine their moral, social, or religious foundations.

Section 2 Marriage of Limited Duration.

A marriage entered into under this bill expires when agreed upon unless renewed. (25.05.372)

Agreement and Filing.

Parties to either a prospective or existing marriage may seek to provide for the expiration of their marriage. The agreement shall provide when the marriage expires and shall agree upon a method for property division. A license fee of \$100 shall be collected. (25.05.373)

Renewal of Marriage.

The marriage of limited duration may be renewed by filing notice with the local registrar of vital statistics. (25.05.374).

Removal of Limitation

Parties to the marriage may remove the time limitation on the marriage by filing notice.

Section 3

The marriage expiration contract shall be filed with the certificate of marriage.

Section 4

The official issuing the marriage license shall attach to it any agreement subjecting the marriage to expiration.

Section 5

The marriage expiration agreement shall be filed with the local registrar together with the certificate of marriage.



Official Business

Alaska State Legislature

House of Representatives

Committee on

Health, Education & Social Services

Pouch V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Sectional Analysis (cont'd)
HB 113

Section 6

Application for License.

Parties to a prospective marriage shall file the marriage expiration agreement with the marriage licensing officer together with the premarital certificate. (25.05.091).

Section 7

Custody of the Child.

Dispute over custody of children born of marriages of limited duration shall be resolved by the same procedures as those children born of marriages of unlimited duration (25.20.060).

Section 8

Marriages of limited duration are accorded the same status as other domestic relationships in relation to court orders pertaining to the "duty of support".

****PLEASE NOTE****

THE ORIGINAL FILE CONTAINS AN OVERSIZED DOCUMENT THAT IS UNSUITABLE FOR FILMING. PLEASE REFER TO THE ALASKA STATE ARCHIVES TO VIEW THE ORIGINAL.

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

*"THE FINANCES OF UNMARRIED COUPLES
LIVING TOGETHER"*

ANCHORAGE DAILY NEWS

MONDAY 9/1/1980

*"POPE REAFFIRMS CATHOLIC BAN ON
CONTRACEPTION, ABORTION"*

ANCHORAGE DAILY NEWS

WEDNESDAY 12/16/1981

*"PREMARRITAL AGREEMENTS ARE
BECOMING COMMON"*

ANCHORAGE DAILY NEWS

THURSDAY 11/12/1981

*"NUMBER OF UNMARRIED COUPLES LIVING
TOGETHER WAY UP SINCE '70"*

ANCHORAGE DAILY NEWS

MONDAY 10/19/1981

2/26

Mike

Where are our other members?

You see, I've got a problem... my budget sub-committee is in a work session ON DEVELOPING BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS — WHICH IS A POOR TIME TO MISS A MEETING!

So — my attendance here will be of limited
duration
H

11-19-81

HRS 113 marriage

① Berkowitz - 39 Div att. in am 11 yrs,
 Ely open + hotel - partner
 Civ. Com. Status of ♀
 "Sunset marriage act."
 Religious, but also civil.

Rec. ① set max. Limit - 5 yrs.!

② "Wedlock" s.g. instead of marriage word.

③ sunset date for statute + marriage under it.

② Roger Gay

③ att. Bernard Stenberg of Calif

↓
no rights exist unless in writing!

Herbert Barbowitz - Atty - age 38 -
Was a Commissioner for Status of Women.

Positive approach first - total commitment -
Marriage is for family purposes -

Average togetherness of divorce - ~~was~~ 1 or 2 yrs. -