

HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

House Bill No. 1631 by Representative Perkins

MARRIAGE: Provides relative to covenant marriages

Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Added technical Legislative Bureau amendments only.

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

Present law provides for the parties to include a statement on their application for a marriage license declaring their intent to enter into a covenant marriage.

Proposed law retains present law and provides that the statement be completed by at least one of the two parties. Also provides that the failure of the application to contain the signatures of both parties shall not affect the validity of the covenant marriage if the declaration of intent and accompanying affidavit have been signed by the parties.

Present law provides that a declaration of intent to contract a covenant marriage must contain a recitation by the parties as provided in R.S. 9:273(A).

Proposed law retains present law and states that the recitation must be signed by both parties.

Present law provides that the parties receive premarital counseling which includes discussion regarding the limited grounds for divorce in a covenant marriage.

Proposed law removes the requirement that the parties receive premarital counseling regarding the limited grounds for divorce in a covenant marriage.

Proposed law requires that the parties receive and read the informational pamphlet developed and promulgated by the office of the attorney general entitled "Covenant Marriage Act" which provides a full explanation of the terms and conditions of a covenant marriage.

Proposed law provides that if the couple is married outside of Louisiana, then the copy of their foreign marriage certificate does not need to be certified for purposes of contracting a covenant marriage.

Proposed law provides suggested forms for the recitation and affidavit of the parties and the attestation of the counselor.

(Amends R.S. 9:224(C)(intro. para.), 273(A)(1) and (2), and 275(B)(1) and (C)(1)(a) and (b)(i) and (ii); Adds R.S. 9:224(E), 273.1 and 275.1)