

ASSEMBLY, No. 1817

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MARCH 28, 1996

By Assemblywoman ALLEN

1 AN ACT concerning marriage licenses and amending R.S.37:1-7.

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3 BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
4 of New Jersey:

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6 1. R.S.37:1-7 is amended to read as follows:

7 37:1-7. The licensing officer is hereby empowered to issue marriage  
8 licenses to the contracting parties who apply therefor and are entitled  
9 under the laws of this State to contract matrimony, authorizing the  
10 marriage of such parties, which license shall be substantially in the  
11 following form:

12

13 "State of New Jersey. County of ..... city, town or township of  
14 .....

15 This is to certify that any person, religious society, institution or  
16 organization authorized by law to perform marriage ceremonies  
17 within the State of New Jersey to whom this may come, he or they  
18 not knowing any lawful impediment thereto, is hereby authorized  
19 and empowered to solemnize the rites of matrimony between  
20 A..... B.....of..... in the county of.....  
21 and State of..... and C..... D.....of....., in  
22 the county of.....and State of....., and to certify the  
23 same to be the said parties, or either of them, under his hand and  
24 seal in his ministerial or official capacity.

25 In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the  
26 seal of said town, township or city at .....this .... day .....  
27 of one thousand nine hundred and .....

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29 .....  
30 (Name and official title)[]

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32 The laws of this State affirm your right to enter into a marriage and  
33 to live within that marriage free from any type of violence and abuse.  
34 The laws of this State are also intended to assure victims of domestic

EXPLANATION - Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 violence that they will receive the maximum protection from abuse the  
2 law can provide. The laws against domestic violence, sexual assault,  
3 harassment, stalking, as well as other provisions of the criminal laws  
4 of this State, are applicable to spouses and other family members and  
5 violations of these laws are punishable by either fine or imprisonment,  
6 or both."

7 If the contracting parties desire both a civil and a religious marriage  
8 ceremony, the licensing officer shall issue a license in duplicate,  
9 marking one as "issued for civil marriage ceremony" and one as  
10 "issued for religious marriage ceremony."

11 Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent the remarriage  
12 of a couple already married to each other; provided, a new license is  
13 obtained and the marriage properly reported. Such license shall be  
14 plainly marked "Issued for remarriage--originally married to same  
15 mate at (state place) on (state date)." Such a license shall be issued  
16 without compliance with the provisions of section 37:1-4 of the  
17 Revised Statutes and the provisions of "An act concerning marriages"  
18 approved May third, one thousand nine hundred and thirty-eight  
19 (P.L.1938, c. 126). When such marriage report is received by the  
20 State registrar he shall, if an original marriage certificate is recorded,  
21 make a notation thereon of the remarriage and its date and place.  
22 (cf. P.L. 1941, c. 354, s. 1)

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24 2. This act shall take effect 90 days after enactment.

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#### STATEMENT

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29 This bill amends the law concerning the issuance of marriage  
30 licenses, R.S.37:1-7. The amendment would require that all marriage  
31 licences include language informing applicants of their legal rights  
32 concerning domestic violence in the State and of the consequences of  
33 criminal acts of abuse perpetrated by spouses or other family members.

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38 Requires marriage licenses to include language informing applicants of  
39 their legal rights concerning domestic violence.