ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 254-ASSEMBLYMAN MANENDO (BY REQUEST)

FEBRUARY 28, 2001

Referred to Committee on Judiciary

SUMMARY—Makes various changes to provisions governing marriage. (BDR 11-95)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.

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Effect on the State: No.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets [omitted material] is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to marriage; authorizing a county clerk to designate a commercial wedding chapel as a branch office of the county clerk for purposes of issuing marriage licenses; authorizing a county clerk to issue a marriage license for the renewal of marriage vows; authorizing the collection of fees for those licenses; revising provisions governing the requirements for a person to obtain a certificate of permission to perform marriages; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Chapter 122 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2, 3 and 4 of this act.

Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires, "other person authorized to solemnize marriages" means a person of any church, denomination or religious society who has been authorized to solemnize marriages according to the usages of the church, denomination or religious society, or any religious society not having clergy but providing for solemnization of marriages in accordance with the rules and customs of that society.

Sec. 3. 1. In any county, the county clerk, in his sole discretion, may designate one or more commercial wedding chapels as a branch office of the county clerk for the purpose of issuing a marriage license.

2. If the county clerk has designated a commercial wedding chapel as a branch office, the county clerk may appoint a person who is certified to perform marriages pursuant to the provisions of NRS 122.064 to 122.073, inclusive, as a deputy clerk to:

(a) Issue a marriage license in the manner set forth in NRS 122.040; and

19 (b) Collect the fees for issuing a marriage license set forth in 20 NRS 122.060.



3. The fees required pursuant to NRS 122.060 for issuing a marriage 2 license which are collected pursuant to this section must be remitted to the county clerk in the manner established by regulation of the county 4 clerk. 5 4. The county clerk may revoke the designation of a branch office and an appointment as a deputy clerk made pursuant to this section by 6 providing notice in any form. Revocation is effective upon receipt.
5. The county clerk may prescribe regulations, which do not conflict 7 8 9 with the provisions of this chapter, to carry out the provisions of this 10 section. Sec. 4. 1. If a person is no longer authorized to solemnize 11 marriages by the church, denomination or religious society that 12 authorized the person to solemnize marriage ceremonies pursuant to 13 NRS 122.064, the church, denomination or religious society shall, within 14 5 days after the authorization is terminated, file an affidavit of revocation 15 of authority to solemnize marriages with the county clerk of the county 16 where the original affidavit of authority to solemnize marriages was filed. 17 18 2. The affidavit of revocation of authority to solemnize marriages must be in substantially the following form: 19 20 21 AFFIDAVIT OF REVOCATION OF AUTHORITY TO SOLEMNIZE MARRIAGES 22 $\overline{23}$ State of Nevada.....} 24 25 *County of*} 26 27 29 meetings are located in (city, town or county). The organization hereby revokes the authority of 30 (name of person) filed in 31 (name of county) on the day of (month), 32 33 (year) to solemnize marriages. 34 I am duly authorized by (name of 35 organization) to complete and submit this affidavit. 36 ••••• Signature of Official 37 38 ••••• 39 Name of Official (type or print name) 40

Signed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me this day of the month

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Notary Public for

of of the year



- Sec. 5. NRS 122.020 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 122.020 1. [A] Except as otherwise provided in this section, a male and a female person, at least 18 years of age, not nearer of kin than second cousins or cousins of the half blood, and not having a husband or wife living, may be joined in marriage.
- 2. A person at least 16 years of age but less than 18 years of age may marry only if he has the consent of:
 - (a) Either parent; or

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- (b) His legal guardian.
- A county clerk may:
- (a) Issue a marriage license to a legally married couple who intend to renew their vows of marriage; and
- (b) Collect the fees required pursuant to NRS 122.060 for issuing a marriage license from a legally married couple who intend to renew their vows of marriage.
- 4. The provisions of this section do not prohibit the performance of a marriage ceremony for a legally married couple who intend to renew their vows of marriage.
 Sec. 6. NRS 122.030 is hereby amended to read as follows:

 - 122.030 1. With respect to any marriage solemnized before January 1, 1971, the original certificate and records of marriage made by the judge, justice or minister, as prescribed in this chapter, and the record thereof by the recorder of the county, or a copy or abstract of the record certified by the recorder, must be received in all courts and places as presumptive evidence of the fact of the marriage.
- 2. With respect to any marriage solemnized on or after January 1. 1971, the original certificate and records of marriage made by the judge, justice, minister, commissioner of civil marriages, for deputy commissioner of civil marriages for other person authorized to solemnize marriages, as prescribed in this chapter, and the record thereof by the recorder of the county, or a copy or abstract of the record certified by the recorder, must be received in all courts and places as presumptive evidence of the fact of the marriage.
- Sec. 7. NRS 122.040 is hereby amended to read as follows: 122.040 1. Before persons may be joined in marriage, a license must be obtained for that purpose from the county clerk of any county in the state. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection $\frac{1}{11}$ and section 3 of this act, the license must be issued at the county seat of that county. The board of county commissioners:
- (a) In a county whose population is 400,000 or more may, at the request of the county clerk, designate two branch offices of the county clerk at which marriage licenses may be issued, if the designated branch offices are located outside of the county seat.
- (b) In a county whose population is less than 400,000 may, at the request of the county clerk, designate one branch office of the county clerk at which marriage licenses may be issued, if the designated branch office is established in a county office building which is located outside of the county seat.



Before issuing a marriage license, the county clerk may require evidence that the applicant for the license is of age. The county clerk shall accept a statement under oath by the applicant and the applicant's parent, if

available, that the applicant is of age.

The county clerk issuing the license shall require the applicant to answer under oath each of the questions contained in the form of license, and, if the applicant cannot answer positively any questions with reference to the other person named in the license, the clerk shall require both persons named in the license to appear before him and to answer, under oath, the questions contained in the form of license. The county clerk shall require the applicant to include his social security number and the social security number of the other person named in the license on the affidavit of application for the marriage license. If either person does not have a social security number, the person responding to the question must state that fact. The county clerk shall not require any evidence to verify a social security number. If any of the information required is unknown to the person responding to the question, he must state that the answer is unknown.

4. If any of the persons intending to marry are under age and have not been previously married, and if the authorization of a district court is not required, the clerk shall issue the license if the consent of the parent or

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(a) Personally given before the clerk;

- (b) Certified under the hand of the parent or guardian, attested by two witnesses, one of whom must appear before the clerk and make oath that he saw the parent or guardian subscribe his name to the annexed certificate, or heard him or her acknowledge it; or
- (c) In writing, subscribed to and acknowledged before a person authorized by law to administer oaths. A facsimile of the acknowledged writing must be accepted if the original is not available.
- 5. If the authorization of a district court is required, the county clerk shall issue the license if that authorization is given to him in writing.
- 6. All records pertaining to marriage licenses are public records and open to inspection pursuant to the provisions of NRS 239.010.
- 7. A marriage license issued on or after July 1, 1987, expires 1 year after its date of issuance.
 - **Sec. 8.** NRS 122.050 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 122.050 The marriage license must be substantially in the following form:

MARRIAGE LICENSE (EXPIRES 1 YEAR AFTER ISSUANCE)

State of Nevada	
County of	}ss. }

These presents are to authorize any minister or other person authorized to solemnize marriages who has obtained a certificate of permission, any supreme court justice or district judge within this state, or justice of the



peace within a township wherein he is permitted to solemnize marriages or if authorized pursuant to subsection 3 of NRS 122.080, or a municipal judge if authorized pursuant to subsection 4 of NRS 122.080 or any commissioner of civil marriages or his deputy within a commissioner township wherein they are permitted to solemnize marriages, to join in marriage of (City, town or location), State of State of birth (If not in U.S.A., name of country); Date of birth Father's name Father's state of birth (If not in U.S.A., name of country) Mother's maiden name Mother's state of birth (If not in U.S.A., name of country) Number of this marriage (1st, 2nd, etc.) Wife deceased Divorced When When And of (City, town or location), State of State of birth (If not in U.S.A., name of country); Date of birth Father's name Father's state of birth (If not in U.S.A., name of country) Mother's maiden name Mother's state of birth (If not in U.S.A., name of country) Number of this marriage (1st, 2nd, etc.) Husband deceased Divorced Annulled When Where; and to certify the marriage according to law. Witness my hand and the seal of the county, this day of the month of

..... of the year

22 (Seal) $\overline{23}$

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Clerk

..... Deputy clerk

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Sec. 9. NRS 122.061 is hereby amended to read as follows:

122.061 1. In any county whose population is 100,000 or more, the main office of the county clerk where marriage licenses may be issued must be open to the public for the purpose of issuing such licenses from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. every day including holidays, and may remain open at other times. [The] Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, the board of county commissioners shall determine the hours during which a branch office of the county clerk where marriage licenses may be issued must remain open to the public.

- 2. In all other counties, the board of county commissioners shall determine the hours during which the offices where marriage licenses may be issued must remain open to the public.
- 3. A county clerk who has designated a commercial wedding chapel as a branch office of the county clerk for the purpose of issuing a marriage license pursuant to section 3 of this act may determine the hours during which a commercial wedding chapel designated as a branch office may issue a marriage license.

Sec. 10. NRS 122.062 is hereby amended to read as follows:

122.062 1. Any [licensed or ordained minister in good standing within his denomination, whose denomination, governing body and church, or any of them, are incorporated or organized or established in this state, minister or other person authorized to solemnize marriages, may join together as husband and wife persons who present a marriage license obtained from any county clerk of the state, if the minister or other person



authorized to solemnize marriages first obtains a certificate of permission to perform marriages as provided in this section and NRS 122.064 to 122.073, inclusive. The fact that a minister or other person authorized to solemnize marriages is retired does not disqualify him from obtaining a certificate of permission to perform marriages. [if, before his retirement, he had active charge of a congregation within this state for a period of at least 3 years.]

- 2. A temporary replacement for a **[licensed or ordained]** minister *or other person authorized to solemnize marriages* certified pursuant to this section and NRS 122.064 to 122.073, inclusive, may solemnize marriages pursuant to subsection 1 during such time as he may be authorized to do so by the county clerk in the county in which he is a temporary replacement, for a period not to exceed 90 days. The minister *or other person authorized to solemnize marriages* whom he temporarily replaces shall provide him with a written authorization which states the period during which it is effective.
- 3. Any chaplain who is assigned to duty in this state by the Armed Forces of the United States may solemnize marriages if he obtains a certificate of permission to perform marriages from the county clerk of the county in which his duty station is located. The county clerk shall issue such a certificate to a chaplain upon proof by him of his military status as a chaplain and of his assignment.
- 4. A county clerk may authorize a [licensed or ordained] minister or other person authorized to solemnize marriages whose [congregation] church, denomination or religious society is located in another state to perform marriages in the county if the [county clerk satisfies himself that the minister is in good standing with his denomination or church. The authorization must be in writing and] minister or other person authorized to solemnize marriages files an application and affidavit that satisfies the requirements of NRS 122.064. The application and affidavit required pursuant to NRS 122.064 need not be filed with any other public officer. A separate authorization is required for each marriage performed. Such a minister or other person authorized to solemnize marriages may perform not more than five marriages in this state in any calendar year.
- 5. A minister or other person authorized to solemnize marriages pursuant to subsection 1 may solemnize a marriage in any county in this state.
 - **Sec. 11.** NRS 122.064 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 122.064 1. A certificate of permission may be obtained only from the county clerk of the county in which the minister *or other person authorized to solemnize marriages* resides, after the filing of a proper application. The initial application must:
- (a) Be in writing and be verified by the applicant, [or] his superior [.] or another person who is authorized by the church, denomination or religious society of the applicant to verify the application.
- (b) Include the date of licensure or ordination [, or both, of the minister,], if applicable, and the name of the church, denomination, [governing body and church, or any of them,] or religious society with which he is affiliated.



(c) Include the social security number of the applicant. 2 (d) Be accompanied by two copies of the denominational standing of the applicant, affidavit of authority to solemnize marriages, one of which the county clerk shall file with the secretary of state. 5 2. [To determine the qualifications of any minister who has filed an application for a certificate, the county clerk with whom the application has 6 7 been filed may require: 8 (a) The congregation of the minister to furnish any evidence which the 9 county clerk considers necessary or helpful. (b) The district attorney and the sheriff to conduct an investigation of 10 the background and present activities of the minister. 11 3. In addition to the requirement of good standing, the county clerk 12 shall, before approving an initial application, satisfy himself that:

(a) The applicant's ministry is primarily one of service to his 13 14 congregation or denomination, and that his performance of marriages will 15 be incidental to that service, or, in the case of a retired minister, that his 16 active ministry was of such a nature. 17 18 (b) No certificate previously issued to the applicant has been canceled for a knowing violation of the laws of this state or of the United States. 19 20 (c) The applicant has not been convicted of a felony, been released from confinement or completed his parole or probation, whichever occurs later, 21 22 within 10 years before the date of the application. 4. The county clerk may require any applicant to submit information in 23 24 addition to the information required by this section.] The affidavit of 25 authority to solemnize marriages must be in substantially the following 26 form: 27 28 AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORITY TO SOLEMNIZE MARRIAGES 29 30 State of Nevada 31 }ss. 32 County of 33 34 The (name of organization) is 35 organized and carries on its work in the State of Nevada. Its active meetings are located in (city, town or county). The 36 organization hereby finds (name of person) is in good standing and is authorized by the organization to solemnize 37 38 39 marriages. I am duly authorized by (name of 40 41 organization) to complete and submit this affidavit. 42 43 44 Signature of Official 45 46 Name of Official 47 (type or print name) 48

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Title of Official



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Signed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me this ...... day of the month
of ..... of the year .....
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     Notary Public for
  ...... County, Nevada.
My appointment expires:.....
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- Sec. 12. NRS 122.066 is hereby amended to read as follows: 122.066 1. If the county clerk approves an application ↓ for a certificate of permission to perform marriages, he shall notify the secretary of state of such approval within 10 days thereafter. After receipt of such notification, the secretary of state shall immediately certify the name of [such] the minister or other person authorized to solemnize *marriages* to each county clerk and county recorder in the state.
- 2. A certificate of permission shall be valid until the county clerk has
- (a) A written statement that the minister is no longer in good standing within his denomination, signed by a trustee, warden, responsible superior or other officer of such minister's congregation authorized to speak for it;
- (b) A written statement that the minister to whom a certificate of permission was granted is no longer a minister, signed by a trustee, warden, responsible superior or other officer of such former minister's congregation authorized to speak for it.
- 3. The written statements required to be sent by a trustee, warden, responsible supervisor or other officer of a congregation pursuant to subsection 2 shall be sent to the county clerk within 5 days following the time the minister ceased to be a member of the denomination in good standing or ceased to be a minister of the congregation.
- —4.] an affidavit of revocation of authority to solemnize marriages pursuant to section 4 of this act.
- 3. If the county clerk in the county where the certificate of permission was issued has reason to believe that the minister fis no longer in good standing within his denomination, or that he is no longer a minister, or that such denomination no longer exists, such or other person authorized to solemnize marriages no longer meets the requirements of NRS 122.062, the clerk may require satisfactory proof of [such minister's denominational standing.] the person's authorization by requesting a new affidavit of authority to solemnize marriages from the church, denomination or religious society of the minister or other person authorized to solemnize marriages. If such proof is not presented within 15 days, the county clerk shall revoke the certificate of permission and shall so notify the secretary of state.
- [5. If any minister to whom a certificate of permission has been issued severs ties with his congregation or moves from the county in which his certificate was issued, the certificate shall expire immediately upon such severance or move, and the trustee, warden, responsible superior or other officer of the congregation authorized to speak for it shall, within 5 days



following the severance or move, give written notice of the fact of such severance or move to the county clerk who issued the certificate.]

Sec. 13. NRS 122.068 is hereby amended to read as follows:

 122.068 1. Any county clerk who has issued a certificate of permission to *perform marriages to* a minister *or other person authorized to solemnize marriages pursuant to NRS 122.064 to 122.073, inclusive,* may revoke [such] the certificate for good cause shown after hearing.

2. If the certificate of permission to perform marriages of any minister or other person authorized to solemnize marriages is revoked, the county clerk shall inform the secretary of state of [such] that fact, and the secretary of state shall immediately remove the name of [such] the minister or other person authorized to solemnize marriages from the list and shall notify each county clerk and county recorder in the state of [such fact.] the revocation.

Sec. 14. NRS 122.071 is hereby amended to read as follows:

122.071 Any minister or other person authorized to solemnize marriages whose application for a certificate of permission to perform marriages or renewal of such a certificate is denied, or whose certificate of permission to perform marriages is revoked, is entitled to judicial review of such action in the district court of the county in which such action was taken.

Sec. 15. NRS 122.073 is hereby amended to read as follows: 122.073 [Each]

1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, each county clerk may prescribe additional regulations, which [shall] do not conflict with the provisions of this chapter, relating to the issuance and revocation of certificates of permission [.] to perform marriages.

2. A county clerk shall not prescribe additional regulations which affect the eligibility of a person to obtain a certificate of permission to perform marriages.

Sec. 16. NRS 122.090 is hereby amended to read as follows:

122.090 No marriage solemnized before any person professing to be a judge, justice, minister, commissioner of civil marriages, for deputy commissioner of civil marriages or other person professing to be authorized to solemnize marriages shall be deemed or adjudged to be void, nor shall the validity thereof be in any way affected on account of any want of jurisdiction or authority, provided it be consummated with a full belief on the part of the persons so married, or either of them, that they have been lawfully joined in marriage.

Sec. 17. NRS 122.110 is hereby amended to read as follows:

122.110 1. In the solemnization of marriage, no particular form is required except that the parties shall declare, in the presence of the justice, judge, minister, justice of the peace, commissioner of civil marriages, top-deputy commissioner of civil marriages, and the attending witness, that they take each other as husband and wife.

2. In every case there shall be at least one witness present besides the person performing the ceremony.



1 2	Sec. 18. NRS 122.120 is hereby amend 122.120 1. After a marriage is solem	ed to read as follows: mized, the person solemnizing	
3	the marriage shall give to each couple being married a certificate of		
4	marriage.	soing married a commeate of	
5	2. The certificate of marriage must be	in substantially the following	
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26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39	(Seal of County Clerk) Na County Clerk Of Couple's mailing address 3. All information contained in the co	Signature of person performing the marriage	
26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40	(Seal of County Clerk) Na County Clerk Of Couple's mailing address 3. All information contained in the couplewritten or legibly printed in black in	Signature of person performing the marriage	
26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43	(Seal of County Clerk) Na County Clerk Of Couple's mailing address 3. All information contained in the couple description of the person performing the resignature of the person performing the resignature.	Signature of person performing the marriage	
26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44	(Seal of County Clerk) Na County Clerk Of Couple's mailing address 3. All information contained in the couple description of the person performing the resignature.	Signature of person performing the marriage Imme under signature typewritten or printed in black ink Tricial title of person performing the marriage ertificate of marriage must be ak, except the signatures. The marriage must be an original	
26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45	County Clerk County Clerk Of Couple's mailing address 3. All information contained in the couple depend on the person performing the signature. Sec. 19. NRS 122.177 is hereby amend	Signature of person performing the marriage	
26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46	County Clerk County Clerk Of Couple's mailing address 3. All information contained in the couple of the person performing the signature. Sec. 19. NRS 122.177 is hereby amend 122.177 1. The county shall provide a	Signature of person performing the marriage	
26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47	County Clerk County Clerk Of Couple's mailing address 3. All information contained in the couple of the person performing the signature. Sec. 19. NRS 122.177 is hereby amend 122.177 1. The county shall provide a marriage license bureau or other place when	Signature of person performing the marriage	
26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46	County Clerk County Clerk Of Couple's mailing address 3. All information contained in the couple of the person performing the signature. Sec. 19. NRS 122.177 is hereby amend 122.177 1. The county shall provide a marriage license bureau or other place whe for the solemnizing of marriages.	Signature of person performing the marriage	



(a) Appropriately furnished by the county to provide a tranquil atmosphere and the solemnizing ceremony shall be privately conducted in a dignified manner without haste; and

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- (b) Situated in a building entirely separate from and unconnected with any building in which marriage licenses are issued.
- 3. The provisions of this section do not prohibit a commercial wedding chapel that is designated as a branch office of the county clerk for the purpose of issuing a marriage license pursuant to section 3 of this act from issuing a marriage license in a building where a marriage is
 - **Sec. 20.** NRS 122.189 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 122.189 1. It is unlawful for the commissioner of civil marriages, any deputy commissioner, or any employee in the office of the commissioner or in the office of the county clerk to:
- (a) Solicit, accept or receive any gratuity, remuneration or fee whatsoever for the solemnizing of marriages;
- (b) Participate in or receive the benefits of any fees solicited or received by any other person; or
- [3.] (c) Influence or attempt to influence any person to have a marriage solemnized in the office of the commissioner of civil marriages.
- 2. The provisions of this section apply to a commercial wedding chapel that is designated as a branch office of the county clerk and a person who is designated as a deputy clerk for the purpose of issuing a marriage license pursuant to section 3 of this act only while acting in the capacity of a branch office or deputy clerk.

 Sec. 21. NRS 122.220 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 122.220 1. It is unlawful for any supreme court justice, judge of a district court, justice of the peace, municipal judge, minister, [of any religious society or congregation,] commissioner of civil marriages, [or] deputy commissioner of civil marriages or other person authorized to solemnize marriages to join together as husband and wife persons allowed by law to be joined in marriage, until the persons proposing such marriage exhibit to him a license from the county clerk as provided by law.
- 2. Any supreme court justice, judge of a district court, justice of the peace, municipal judge, minister, commissioner of civil marriages, [or] deputy commissioner of civil marriages or other person authorized to solemnize marriages who violates the provisions of subsection 1 is guilty of a misdemeanor.



