

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2005

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SENATE BILL 262  
State and Local Government Committee Substitute Adopted 4/20/05

Short Title: Marriage by District Court Judge.

(Public)

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Sponsors:

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Referred to:

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March 1, 2005

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT ALLOWING A DISTRICT COURT JUDGE TO PERFORM MARRIAGE  
3 CEREMONIES.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 51-1 reads as rewritten:

6 "**§ 51-1. Requisites of marriage; solemnization.**

7 A valid and sufficient marriage is created by the consent of a male and female  
8 person who may lawfully marry, presently to take each other as husband and wife,  
9 freely, seriously and plainly expressed by each in the presence of the other, either:

10 (1) a. In the presence of an ordained minister of any religious  
11 denomination, a minister authorized by a church, a district court  
12 judge of this State or of another state, or a magistrate; and

13 b. With the consequent declaration by the ~~minister~~ minister,  
14 district court judge, or magistrate that the persons are husband  
15 and wife; or

16 (2) In accordance with any mode of solemnization recognized by any  
17 religious denomination, or federally or State recognized Indian Nation  
18 or Tribe.

19 Marriages solemnized before March 9, 1909, by ministers of the gospel licensed, but not  
20 ordained, are validated from their consummation."

21 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective June 23, 2005, and expires June 27,  
22 2005.