

1 HB130  
2 172801-1  
3 By Representative Hill (J)  
4 RFD: Judiciary  
5 First Read: 09-FEB-16

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8 SYNOPSIS: This bill would clarify that those  
9 authorized or permitted to solemnize marriages  
10 pursuant to Alabama law are not required to  
11 solemnize the marriage of any person.

12  
13 A BILL  
14 TO BE ENTITLED  
15 AN ACT  
16

17 To amend Section 30-1-7, Code of Alabama 1975,  
18 relating to persons authorized to solemnize marriages; to  
19 specify that those authorized to solemnize marriages pursuant  
20 to the laws of this state are not required to solemnize the  
21 marriage of any person.

22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

23 Section 1. Section 30-1-7, Code of Alabama 1975, is  
24 amended to read as follows:

25 "§30-1-7.

26 "(a) Generally. Marriages may be solemnized by any  
27 licensed minister of the gospel in regular communion with the

1 Christian church or society of which the minister is a member;  
2 by an active or retired judge of the Supreme Court, Court of  
3 Criminal Appeals, Court of Civil Appeals, any circuit court,  
4 or any district court within this state; by a judge of any  
5 federal court; or by an active or retired judge of probate.

6 "(b) Pastor of religious society; clerk of society  
7 to maintain register of marriages; register, etc., deemed  
8 presumptive evidence of fact. Marriage may also be solemnized  
9 by the pastor of any religious society according to the rules  
10 ordained or custom established by such society. The clerk or  
11 keeper of the minutes of each society shall keep a register  
12 and enter therein a particular account of all marriages  
13 solemnized by the society, which register, or a sworn copy  
14 thereof, is presumptive evidence of the fact.

15 "(c) Quakers, Mennonites, or other religious  
16 societies. The people called Mennonites, Quakers, or any other  
17 Christian society having similar rules or regulations, may  
18 solemnize marriage according to their forms by consent of the  
19 parties, published and declared before the congregation  
20 assembled for public worship.

21 "(d) No one authorized or permitted to solemnize  
22 marriages pursuant to this section or any other provision of  
23 Alabama law is required to solemnize a marriage for any person  
24 or persons."

25 Section 2. This act shall become effective upon its  
26 passage and approval by the Governor, or its otherwise  
27 becoming law.

