

COMMITTEE OF CONFERENCE SUBSTITUTE TO SB 238

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 2 of Chapter 3 of Title 19 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
2 relating to marriage license and ceremony, so as to allow the Governor or any former  
3 Governor of this state to perform marriage ceremonies; to provide for related matters; to  
4 repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Article 2 of Chapter 3 of Title 19 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
8 marriage license and ceremony, is amended by revising subsection (c) of Code Section  
9 19-3-30, relating to issuance, return, and recording of license, as follows:

10 "(c) The license shall be directed to the Governor or any former Governor of this state, any  
11 judge, including judges of state and federal courts of record in this state, city recorder,  
12 magistrate, minister, or other person of any religious society or sect authorized by the rules  
13 of such society to perform the marriage ceremony; such license shall authorize the marriage  
14 of the persons therein named and require the Governor or any former Governor of this  
15 state, judge, city recorder, magistrate, minister, or other authorized person to return the  
16 license to the judge of the probate court with the certificate thereon as to the fact and date  
17 of marriage within 30 days after the date of the marriage. The license with the return  
18 thereon shall be recorded by the judge in a book kept by such judge for that purpose."

19 **SECTION 2.**

20 Said article is further amended by revising Code Section 19-3-39, relating to certification and  
21 recordation of marriage after publication of banns, as follows:

22 "19-3-39.

23 If the Governor or any former Governor of this state, any judge, city recorder, magistrate,  
24 minister, or other authorized person joins in marriage persons whose banns have been  
25 published, the person shall certify the fact to the judge of the probate court of the county

26 where the banns were published, who shall record the same in the same book in which  
27 marriage licenses are recorded."

28 **SECTION 3.**

29 Said article is further amended by revising Code Section 19-3-42, relating to the effect on  
30 marriage of want of authority in person officiating, as follows:

31 "19-3-42.

32 A marriage which is valid in other respects and supposed by the parties to be valid shall not  
33 be affected by want of authority in the minister, Governor or any former Governor of this  
34 state, judge, city recorder, magistrate, or other person to solemnize the same; nor shall such  
35 objection be heard from one party who has fraudulently induced the other to believe that  
36 the marriage was legal."

37 **SECTION 4.**

38 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 19-3-46, relating to forfeiture for  
39 officiating at marriage without license or banns, as follows:

40 "19-3-46.

41 The Governor or any former Governor of this state, ~~any~~ judge, city recorder,  
42 magistrate, minister, or other person authorized to perform the marriage ceremony who  
43 joins in marriage any couple without a license or the publication of banns shall forfeit the  
44 sum of \$500.00, to be recovered and appropriated as set forth in Code Section 19-3-45."

45 **SECTION 5.**

46 Said title is further amended by revising Code Section 19-3-48, relating to the penalty for  
47 officiating at an illegal marriage ceremony, as follows:

48 "19-3-48.

49 If the Governor or any former Governor of this state, any judge, city recorder, magistrate,  
50 minister, or other person authorized to perform the marriage ceremony joins together in  
51 matrimony any man and woman without a license or the publication of banns or if the  
52 person performing the marriage ceremony knows of any disability of either of the parties  
53 which would render a contract of marriage improper and illegal, that person shall be guilty  
54 of a misdemeanor."

55 **SECTION 6.**

56 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.