

House Bill 184 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE) (AM)

By: Representatives Frazier of the 123<sup>rd</sup>, Williams of the 89<sup>th</sup>, Amerson of the 9<sup>th</sup>, Nix of the 69<sup>th</sup>, Brooks of the 63<sup>rd</sup>, and others

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 revise provisions of said article; to  
3 provide for state officers authorized to perform marriage ceremonies; to provide for the  
4 public dissemination of information relating to sickle cell disease; to provide for related  
5 matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

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

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

21 **SECTION 2.**

22 Said article is further amended by revising Code Section 19-3-40, which is reserved, as  
23 follows:

24 "19-3-40.

25 (a) As used in this Code section, the term 'blood test for sickle cell disease' means a blood  
26 test for sickle cell anemia, sickle cell trait, and other detectable abnormal hemoglobin.

27 (b) The Department of Human Resources shall prepare information for public  
28 dissemination on the department's website describing the importance of obtaining a blood  
29 test for sickle cell disease and explaining the causes and effects of such disease. Such  
30 information shall recommend that each applicant applying for a marriage license obtain a  
31 blood test for sickle cell disease prior to obtaining a marriage license. Such information  
32 may also be provided as a brochure or other document. The department shall make such  
33 information available in electronic format to the probate courts of this state which shall  
34 disseminate such information to all persons applying for marriage licenses. Reserved."

35 **SECTION 3.**

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