



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 446**

January Session, 2015

Senate Bill No. 991

*Senate, April 2, 2015*

The Committee on Public Health reported through SEN. GERRATANA of the 6th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S  
RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING PERSONS AUTHORIZED TO  
SOLEMNIZE MARRIAGES.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 46b-22 of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
3 *October 1, 2015*):

4 (a) Persons authorized to solemnize marriages in this state include  
5 (1) all judges and retired judges, either elected or appointed, including  
6 federal judges and judges of other states who may legally join persons  
7 in marriage in their jurisdictions, (2) family support magistrates, state  
8 referees and justices of the peace who are appointed in Connecticut,  
9 and (3) all ordained or licensed members of the clergy, belonging to  
10 this state or any other state, [, as long as they continue in the work of  
11 the ministry.] All marriages solemnized according to the forms and  
12 usages of any religious denomination in this state, including marriages  
13 witnessed by a duly constituted Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is, are

14 valid. All marriages attempted to be celebrated by any other person  
15 are void.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>October 1, 2015</i>	46b-22(a)
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**PH**      *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

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***OFA Fiscal Note******State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None***Explanation***

The bill, which makes a clarifying change to the statute concerning marriage officiators, is technical and has no fiscal impact.

***The Out Years******State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None

**OLR Bill Analysis****SB 991*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING PERSONS AUTHORIZED TO SOLEMNIZE MARRIAGES.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill allows all ordained or licensed clergy members, including those ordained online, to perform marriage ceremonies in Connecticut. It does this by eliminating the requirement that these individuals continue ministerial work. Current law allows clergy members ordained or licensed in any state to perform the ceremonies, but only if they continue in the work of the ministry.

Existing law also allows the following judicial authorities to perform marriage ceremonies in Connecticut:

1. judges and retired judges, including out-of-state judges authorized to perform marriages in their jurisdictions and
2. Connecticut-appointed family support magistrates, state referees, and justices of the peace.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2015

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 27 Nay 0 (03/23/2015)