

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to civil law; authorizing local registrars to develop and implement
1.3 procedures to issue marriage licenses without an in-person appearance.

1.4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.5 Section 1. **PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY; MARRIAGE LICENSE**
1.6 **APPLICATION AND OATH WITHOUT APPEARANCE.**

1.7 (a) For purposes of this section, "peacetime public health emergency" means any
1.8 peacetime emergency declared by the governor in an executive order that relates to the
1.9 infectious disease known as COVID-19.

1.10 (b) During a peacetime public health emergency, each local registrar may develop and
1.11 implement procedures to examine the parties upon oath and accept civil marriage license
1.12 applications, signed by both parties, by mail, facsimile, or electronic filing. Examination
1.13 of the parties upon oath under this section may include contemporaneous video or audio
1.14 transmission or receipt of a verified statement signed by both parties attesting to the legality
1.15 of the marriage.

1.16 (c) Procedures developed and implemented under this section must be consistent with
1.17 Minnesota Statutes, section 517.08, subdivision 1b, except that the requirement that at least
1.18 one party appear in person does not apply. The use of electronic signatures shall be consistent
1.19 with the requirements of Minnesota Statutes, chapter 325L.

1.20 (d) This section expires at the end of the peacetime public health emergency or January
1.21 15, 2021, whichever is earlier.

1.22 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.