

02/12/2021

Rep. John Huot, District 57B  
583 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: HF 575 Notary publics authorized to perform civil marriages.

Dear Representative Huot:

My name is Vincent Barry, and I am one of your constituents in Apple Valley. I am writing in support of your Bill HF 575 which would allow Notary Publics to perform civil marriages. As a Notary in Minnesota, Commission 31026661, this strikes me as a practical Bill for at least the following reasons:

1. Due to current Covid-19 restrictions on gathering size, a religious or secular venue might not be available, which may also hinder the celebrant from performing a ceremony in the timing desired by the couple. Utilizing a Notary can fill that gap, with the option of a more formal solemnization at a later date.
2. Many couples are opting to have their wedding performed in a non-religious ceremony by a family member or friend in order to make the occasion more memorable. Although there are a number of online options for becoming "ordained" to perform a recognized ceremony, a Notary commissioned by the State of Minnesota has accountability to ensure the proper documentation is completed and recorded in a timely manner.
3. As there is a searchable database for Notaries in MN, this allows residents to expand their options if they do not have a friend or family member already a Notary. It would also provide an avenue for existing Notaries to choose to grow their business with this additional service.

As stated above, this appears to be a very practical bill to open up the option of civil marriage. Please contact me with any questions on these points.

Sincerely,

Vincent A Barry  
Apple Valley, MN