

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Marriage Solemnization

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Overview

The bill deals with solemnization of Buddhist and Hmong marriages and provides a method of retroactively validating marriages performed before the bill's effective date and that did not comply with the terms of the bill.

Section

1 **Marriage solemnization.** Amends the statute on ways that a marriage can be formalized in this state. Stricken language is moved to new subdivision 6.

Adds "Buddhist" to the list of religions according to which a marriage may be solemnized in this state.

Adds a new subdivision stating that a marriage may be solemnized among the Hmong people by the Mej Koob, according to Hmong culture.

Adds a new subdivision, which states that within a month after a marriage is solemnized, the marriage certificate must be delivered to the district court in the county where the marriage took place. Requires the court administrator to file and record the certificate. Sets a \$100 penalty for failing to do either of these. For Hmong marriages, the parties to the marriage are required to deliver the marriage certificate. Language relating to a marriage in the Society of Friends is moved from subdivision 1

The bill allows retroactive validation of marriages, performed before the effective date of the bill, within one year after the bill takes effect. Validation can be accomplished if a certificate of marriage is signed by one of the parties and four witnesses who attended the ceremony.

Section

The certificate must state the date of the ceremony and be filed with the district court. If a marriage license was not obtained at the time of the original ceremony, the parties must obtain a license by the time the certificate is filed.