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SENATE BILL NO. 15

Senate Amendments in [] — January 19, 2004

A BILL to amend and reenact § 20-25 of the Code of Virginia, relating to persons other than ministers who may perform rites.

Patron Prior to Engrossment—Senator Edwards

Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 20-25 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 20-25. Persons other than ministers who may perform rites.

Any circuit court judge may issue an order authorizing one or more persons, resident in the ~~jurisdiction~~ circuit in which the judge sits, to celebrate the rites of marriage ~~in such jurisdiction~~ anywhere in the Commonwealth. Any person so authorized shall, before acting, enter into bond in the penalty of \$500, with or without surety, as the court may direct. Any order made under this section may be rescinded at any time.

Any judge or justice of a court of record, any judge of a district court or any retired judge or justice of the Commonwealth or any active, senior or retired federal judge or justice who is a resident of the Commonwealth may celebrate the rites of marriage anywhere in the Commonwealth without the necessity of bond or order of authorization.

[2. That an emergency exists and this act is in force from its passage.]

ENGROSSED

SB15E