

2004 SESSION

HOUSE SUBSTITUTE

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SENATE BILL NO. 274

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the House Committee for Courts of Justice
on February 23, 2004)

(Patrons Prior to Substitute—Senators Devolites and Edwards [SB 15])

A BILL to amend and reenact § 20-25 of the Code of Virginia, relating to persons authorized to perform marriage rites.

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~~ 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 Any order made under this section may be rescinded at any time.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.

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