

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend and reenact § 20-25 of the Code of Virginia, relating to persons other than ministers*
3 *who may perform rites of marriage; clerk; issuance of order; bond requirement.*

4 [H 2071]

5 Approved

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**7 **1. That § 20-25 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**8 **§ 20-25. Persons other than ministers who may perform rites.**

9 Upon petition filed with the clerk and payment of applicable clerk's fees, ~~any circuit court judge~~ *such*
10 *clerk* may issue an order authorizing one or more persons resident in the circuit in which ~~the judge sits~~
11 *such petition was filed* to celebrate the rites of marriage in the Commonwealth. Any person so
12 authorized shall, before acting, enter into bond in the penalty of \$500, with or without surety, as the
13 ~~court~~ *clerk* may direct; *however, upon a showing that the person would otherwise be qualified for in*
14 *forma pauperis status, the clerk may waive such bond.* Any order made under this section may be
15 rescinded at any time. No oath shall be required of a person authorized to celebrate the rites of
16 marriage, nor shall such person be considered an officer of the Commonwealth by virtue of such
17 authorization.

18 Any judge or justice of a court of record, any judge of a district court, any retired judge or justice of
19 the Commonwealth, any active, senior, or retired federal judge or justice who is a resident of the
20 Commonwealth, and any current (i) member of the General Assembly, (ii) Governor of Virginia, (iii)
21 Lieutenant Governor of Virginia, and (iv) Attorney General of Virginia may celebrate the rites of
22 marriage anywhere in the Commonwealth without the necessity of bond or order of authorization.

23 **2. That the State Registrar shall amend the form furnished for a marriage license to include as the**
24 **celebrant on such marriage license any person authorized by § 20-25 of the Code of Virginia, as**
25 **amended by this act, to perform rites of marriage.**

ENROLLED

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