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**HOUSE BILL NO. 174**

Offered January 10, 2024

Prefiled January 3, 2024

*A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 20-13.2, relating to marriage lawful regardless of sex, gender, or race of parties; issuance of marriage license.*

Patrons—Henson, Helmer, Anthony, Askew, Bennett-Parker, Bulova, Callsen, Clark, Cohen, Cole, Cousins, Feggans, Gardner, Glass, Hayes, Hernandez, Hope, Jones, Keys-Gamarra, Krizek, Laufer, LeVere Bolling, Lopez, Maldonado, Martinez, McClure, McQuinn, Price, Rasoul, Reaser, Seibold, Sewell, Shin, Sickles, Thomas, Tran, Ward, Watts and Willett

Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 20-13.2 as follows:**

**§ 20-13.2. Marriage lawful regardless of sex, gender, or race of parties.**

*No person authorized by § 20-14 to issue a marriage license shall deny the issuance of such license to two parties contemplating a lawful marriage on the basis of the sex, gender, or race of such parties. Such lawful marriages shall be recognized in the Commonwealth regardless of the sex, gender, or race of the parties.*

*Religious organizations and members of the clergy acting in their religious capacity shall have the right to refuse to perform any marriage.*

INTRODUCED

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