

**As Introduced**

**132nd General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2017-2018**

**S. B. No. 52**

**Senator Skindell**

**Cosponsors: Senators Thomas, Schiavoni**

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**A BILL**

To amend sections 3101.08, 3101.10, 3101.11, and 1  
3101.12 of the Revised Code to allow any person 2  
or entity that registers with the secretary of 3  
state to solemnize marriages. 4

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That sections 3101.08, 3101.10, 3101.11, and 5  
3101.12 of the Revised Code be amended to read as follows: 6

**Sec. 3101.08.** ~~An ordained or licensed minister of any 7  
religious society or congregation within this state who is 8  
licensed to solemnize marriages, a judge of a county court in 9  
accordance with section 1907.18 of the Revised Code, a judge of 10  
a municipal court in accordance with section 1901.14 of the 11  
Revised Code, a probate judge in accordance with section 2101.27 12  
of the Revised Code, the mayor of a municipal corporation in any 13  
county in which such municipal corporation wholly or partly 14  
lies, the superintendent of the state school for the deaf, or 15  
any religious society in conformity with the rules of its 16  
church, The following persons or entities may join together as 17  
husband and wife any persons who are not prohibited by law from 18~~

being joined in marriage;	19
<u>(A) An ordained or licensed minister of any religious</u>	20
<u>society or congregation within this state who is licensed to</u>	21
<u>solemnize marriages;</u>	22
<u>(B) A judge of a county court in accordance with section</u>	23
<u>1907.18 of the Revised Code;</u>	24
<u>(C) A judge of a municipal court in accordance with</u>	25
<u>section 1901.14 of the Revised Code;</u>	26
<u>(D) A probate judge in accordance with section 2101.27 of</u>	27
<u>the Revised Code;</u>	28
<u>(E) The mayor of a municipal corporation in any county in</u>	29
<u>which such municipal corporation wholly or partly lies;</u>	30
<u>(F) The superintendent of the state school for the deaf;</u>	31
<u>(G) Any religious society in conformity with the rules of</u>	32
<u>its church;</u>	33
<u>(H) Any other person or entity that has registered to</u>	34
<u>solemnize marriages with the secretary of state.</u>	35
<b>Sec. 3101.10. (A)</b> A minister upon producing to the	36
secretary of state, credentials of the minister's being a	37
regularly ordained or licensed minister of any religious society	38
or congregation, shall be entitled to receive from the secretary	39
of state a license authorizing the minister to solemnize	40
marriages in this state so long as the minister continues as a	41
regular minister in that society or congregation. A minister	42
shall produce for inspection the minister's license to solemnize	43
marriages upon demand of any party to a marriage at which the	44
minister officiates or proposes to officiate or upon demand of	45
any probate judge.	46

(B) Any other person or entity that wishes to solemnize 47  
marriages shall register with the secretary of state and the 48  
secretary of state shall issue a license authorizing the person 49  
or entity to solemnize marriages in this state. The person shall 50  
produce for inspection the person's license to solemnize 51  
marriages or, if applicable, the license of the entity on behalf 52  
of which the person is solemnizing marriages, upon demand of any 53  
party to a marriage at which the person officiates or proposes 54  
to officiate or upon demand of any probate judge. 55

**Sec. 3101.11.** The secretary of state shall enter the name 56  
of a minister licensed to solemnize marriages or any other 57  
person or entity that registered with the secretary of state 58  
under section 3101.10 of the Revised Code and is licensed to 59  
solemnize marriages upon a record kept in the office of the 60  
secretary of state. 61

**Sec. 3101.12.** When the name of a minister licensed to 62  
~~solemnized~~ solemnize marriages or the name of any other person 63  
or entity that registered with the secretary of state under 64  
section 3101.10 of the Revised Code and is licensed to solemnize 65  
marriages is entered upon the record by the secretary of state, 66  
such record and the license issued under section 3101.10 of the 67  
Revised Code shall be evidence that such minister, person, or 68  
entity is authorized to solemnize marriages in this state. 69

**Section 2.** That existing sections 3101.08, 3101.10, 70  
3101.11, and 3101.12 of the Revised Code are hereby repealed. 71