

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009

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SENATE DRS35144-SU-1 (02/09)

Short Title: Authorize Mayors to Solemnize Marriage. (Public)

Sponsors: Senator Davis.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE MAYORS TO SOLEMNIZE MARRIAGES IF AUTHORIZED
3 BY LOCAL ORDINANCE.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 SECTION 1. G.S. 51-1 reads as rewritten:

6 "§ 51-1. **Requisites of marriage; solemnization.**

7 A valid and sufficient marriage is created by the consent of a male and female person who
8 may lawfully marry, presently to take each other as husband and wife, freely, seriously and
9 plainly expressed by each in the presence of the other, either:

10 (1) a. In the presence of an ordained minister of any religious
11 denomination, a minister authorized by a church, ~~or a magistrate;~~
12 magistrate, or a mayor authorized by local ordinance to solemnize
13 marriages; and

14 b. With the consequent declaration by the ~~minister or magistrate~~
15 minister, magistrate, or mayor that the persons are husband and wife;
16 or

17 (2) In accordance with any mode of solemnization recognized by any religious
18 denomination, or federally or State recognized Indian Nation or Tribe.

19 Marriages solemnized before March 9, 1909, by ministers of the gospel licensed, but not
20 ordained, are validated from their consummation."

21 SECTION 2. This act is effective when it becomes law.

