
HOUSE BILL 1970

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Representatives Mulliken, Casada, Mielke, Lambert, Campbell, Cox, Sump, Schindler, Boldt, Morell, Carrell, Ahern and Dunn

Read first time 02/12/2001. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

1 AN ACT Relating to reaffirming and protecting the institution of
2 marriage; amending RCW 26.04.020; and providing for submission of this
3 act to a vote of the people.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 26.04.020 and 1998 c 1 s 4 are each amended to read as
6 follows:

7 (1) Marriages in the following cases are prohibited:

8 (a) When either party thereto has a wife or husband living at the
9 time of such marriage;

10 (b) When the husband and wife are nearer of kin to each other than
11 second cousins, whether of the whole or half blood computing by the
12 rules of the civil law; or

13 (c) When the parties are persons other than a male and a female.

14 (2) It is unlawful for any man to marry his father's sister,
15 mother's sister, daughter, sister, son's daughter, daughter's daughter,
16 brother's daughter or sister's daughter; it is unlawful for any woman
17 to marry her father's brother, mother's brother, son, brother, son's
18 son, daughter's son, brother's son or sister's son.

1 (3) A marriage between two persons that is recognized as valid in
2 another jurisdiction is valid in this state only if the marriage is not
3 prohibited (~~(or made unlawful)~~) under subsection (1)(a)(~~(7)~~) or (1)(c)
4 of this section, or unlawful under subsection (2) of this section.

5 (4) The uniting of two persons in a nonmarital domestic
6 relationship, including a civil union, domestic partnership, or other
7 similar relationship when the persons are other than a male and a
8 female is not valid in this state and such a uniting of two persons
9 recognized as valid in another jurisdiction is not recognized as valid
10 in this state.

11 (5) A person in a nonmarital domestic relationship shall not
12 qualify for, or receive, any spousal, familial, or marital benefit,
13 privilege, advantage, or entitlement, or any equivalent thereof, that
14 is paid for, directly or indirectly, in whole or in part, with public
15 funds.

16 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. The secretary of state shall submit this act
17 to the people for their adoption and ratification, or rejection, at the
18 next general election to be held in this state, in accordance with
19 Article II, section 1 of the state Constitution and the laws adopted to
20 facilitate its operation.

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