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## Civil Rights & Judiciary Committee

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### HB 2261

**Brief Description:** Concerning marriage licensing and solemnization by county auditors.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Leavitt, Chambers, Orwall, Appleton, Doglio, Pollet, Kilduff, Shewmake, Wylie and Hudgins.

#### Brief Summary of Bill

- Authorizes county auditors to solemnize marriages.
- Requires county auditors to issue marriage licenses at the time of application, and removes the three-day waiting period to use a marriage license.
- Provides that any fee charged by a county auditor for the solemnization of marriage conducted in a county-owned facility must be fixed by the county legislative authority and deposited into an account to be used solely for the purpose of funding behavioral health service programs for veterans.

**Hearing Date:** 1/14/20

**Staff:** Ingrid Lewis (786-7289).

#### Background:

After being issued a marriage license, the parties must have their marriage solemnized within 60 days or the license is void. There is no particular form required for the solemnization of a marriage, except that the parties are required to assent to the marriage in the presence of an authorized person and at least two attending witnesses.

Active or retired justices of the Supreme Court, judges of the courts of appeals, judges of the

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superior courts, Supreme Court commissioners, courts of appeals' commissioners, superior courts' commissioners, commissioners of courts of limited jurisdiction, judges of tribal courts from federally recognized tribes, and any regularly licensed or ordained minister or any priest, imam, rabbi, or similar official of any religious organization are all authorized to solemnize marriages in Washington. HRC HDC

More words More words

**Summary of Bill:**

County auditors are authorized to solemnize marriages.

A county auditor is required to issue a marriage license at the time of a license application, and the mandated three-day waiting period to use a marriage license is removed.

Any fee charged for the solemnization of a marriage conducted by a county auditor in a county owned facility must be fixed by the county legislative authority. Any proceeds from this fee must be deposited and maintained in a separate dedicated account to be used solely for the purpose of funding behavioral health services programs for veterans

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Preliminary fiscal note available.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.