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HOUSE BILL 1657

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State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By Representatives Street, Cheney, Simmons, Taylor, Ormsby, and Hutchins

Read first time 01/30/23. Referred to Committee on Civil Rights & Judiciary.

1 AN ACT Relating to the authority of justices, judges, and  
2 judicial officers of federal courts to solemnize marriages; and  
3 amending RCW 26.04.050.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 26.04.050 and 2019 c 52 s 2 are each amended to read  
6 as follows:

7 The following named officers and persons, active or retired, are  
8 hereby authorized to solemnize marriages, to wit: Justices of the  
9 supreme court((~~r~~)); judges of the court of appeals((~~r~~)); judges of  
10 the superior courts((~~r~~)); supreme court commissioners((~~r~~)); court of  
11 appeals commissioners((~~r~~)); superior court commissioners((~~r~~)); judges  
12 and commissioners of courts of limited jurisdiction as defined in RCW  
13 3.02.010((~~r~~)); justices of the supreme court of the United States;  
14 judges and judicial officers of the federal courts; judges of tribal  
15 courts from a federally recognized tribe((~~r~~)); and any regularly  
16 licensed or ordained minister or any priest, imam, rabbi, or similar  
17 official of any religious organization. The solemnization of a  
18 marriage by a tribal court judge pursuant to authority under this  
19 section does not create tribal court jurisdiction and does not affect  
20 state court authority as otherwise provided by law to enter a  
21 judgment for purposes of any dissolution, legal separation, or other

1 proceedings related to the marriage that is binding on the parties  
2 and entitled to full faith and credit.

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