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H.558

Introduced by Representatives Fisher of Lincoln, Jewett of Ripton and Lippert
of Hinesburg

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Health; marriages; solemnization; town clerks

Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to authorize town clerks to solemnize
marriages.

An act relating to authorizing town clerks to solemnize marriages

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. § 5144(a) is amended to read:

(a) Marriages may be solemnized by a supreme court justice, a superior
court judge, a district judge, a judge of probate, an assistant judge, a justice of
the peace, a town clerk, an individual who has registered as an officiant with
the Vermont secretary of state pursuant to section 5144a of this title, a member
of the clergy residing in this state and ordained or licensed, or otherwise
regularly authorized thereunto by the published laws or discipline of the
general conference, convention, or other authority of his or her faith or
denomination, or by such a clergy person residing in an adjoining state or
country, whose parish, church, temple, mosque, or other religious organization

1 lies wholly or in part in this state, or by a member of the clergy residing in
2 some other state of the United States or in the Dominion of Canada, provided
3 he or she has first secured from the probate court of the district within which
4 the marriage is to be solemnized a special authorization, authorizing him or her
5 to certify the marriage if such probate judge determines that the circumstances
6 make the special authorization desirable. Marriage among the Friends or
7 Quakers, the Christadelphian Ecclesia, and the Baha'i Faith may be
8 solemnized in the manner heretofore used in such societies.