

**No. 164. An act relating to the solemnization of a marriage by a Judicial Bureau hearing officer.**

(S.256)

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

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

§ 5144. PERSONS AUTHORIZED TO SOLEMNIZE MARRIAGE

(a) Marriages may be solemnized by a ~~supreme court justice~~ Supreme Court Justice, a ~~superior~~ Superior judge, a judge of ~~probate~~ Probate, an assistant judge, a justice of the peace, a magistrate, a Judicial Bureau hearing officer, an individual who has registered as an officiant with the Vermont ~~secretary of state~~ Secretary of State pursuant to section 5144a of this title, a member of the clergy residing in this ~~state~~ 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 lies wholly or in part in this ~~state~~ State, or by a member of the clergy residing in some other state of the United States or in the Dominion of Canada, provided he or she has first secured from the ~~probate division of the superior court~~ Probate Division of the Superior Court in the unit within which the marriage is to be solemnized a special authorization, authorizing him or her to certify the marriage if the ~~probate~~ Probate judge determines that the circumstances make the special authorization desirable. Marriage among the

Friends or Quakers, the Christadelphian Ecclesia, and the Baha'i Faith may be solemnized in the manner heretofore used in such societies.

\* \* \*

Sec. 2. RECIPROCAL BENEFICIARIES; REPEAL; INTENT

(a) The stated purpose of the reciprocal beneficiaries is to provide two persons who are blood-relatives or related by adoption the opportunity to establish a consensual reciprocal beneficiaries relationship so they may receive the benefits and protections and be subject to the responsibilities that are granted to spouses in specific areas. Since enactment in 2000, no reciprocal beneficiary relationship has been established in Vermont.

(b) 15 V.S.A. chapter 25 is repealed (reciprocal beneficiaries).

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

Date Governor signed bill: May 28, 2014