Overview

This bill creates an additional type of marriage called a covenant marriage and provides requirements and procedures for entering into and dissolving the marriage.

Section

1-2 Designation of marriage type. Requires a marriage license application to contain an acknowledgment by the parties that they are aware of the covenant marriage law and a designation whether the marriage is a "covenant marriage" or a "standard marriage."

3 License requirements. Requires parties to include a declaration of intent to enter into a covenant marriage and provides the form of the declaration. Also requires a statement by the educator who provided premarital education.

4 Certificate. Requires the marriage certificate to indicate the parties entered into a covenant marriage.

5 Covenant marriage requirements and procedure. Provides a description of a covenant marriage. Requires the parties to have received certain counseling. States that a covenant marriage affects grounds for dissolution, but does not affect legal separation.

6 Applicability to already married couples. Provides procedures for couples already married to designate their marriage a covenant marriage. Requires a $20 filing fee and designates where fee proceeds go.

7-8 Dissolution or separation of covenant marriage. Provides instances when a covenant marriage may be dissolved: adultery, imprisonment for felony, abandonment for a year and refusal to return, physical or sexual abuse of a spouse or a child, or living apart for two years. Requires a court to order counseling if parties rely on separation as grounds for dissolution or allows a court to waive counseling if parties have received equivalent counseling.

9 Requisites of petition. Requires a dissolution petition to state the grounds for dissolution of a covenant marriage.
Information pamphlet. Requires the attorney general to issue an informational pamphlet outlining the requirements of a covenant marriage.