

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Gender-neutral marriage laws

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Overview

This bill permits marriage between persons of the same sex in Minnesota and instructs the Revisor of Statutes to replace gender-based marriage terminology in Minnesota law and rule with gender-neutral terms. A number of legislative findings related to same-sex relationships and Minnesota law are also provided.

Section

- 1 Citation.** Provides a title for the bill.
- 2 Legislative findings.** Establishes a number of legislative findings and declarations related to the status of same-sex relationships and Minnesota law, including findings that current law discriminates against same-sex couples, and the exclusion of same-sex couples from marriage serves no legitimate government purpose and is contrary to the public interest.
- 3 Human Rights Act.** Eliminates language that currently prohibits the provisions of the Minnesota Human Rights Act from being read as authorizing marriage between persons of the same sex.
- 4 Marriage; civil contract.** Provides that a marriage is a civil contract between two persons, and eliminates gender references.
- 5 General; prohibited marriages.** Eliminates language that currently prohibits marriages between persons of the same sex from being performed or considered valid in Minnesota.
- 6 Application for license.** Eliminates gender-based references related to a marriage application.
- 7 Solemnization.** Adds a gender-neutral reference to language specifying the process for solemnizing a marriage in Minnesota.
- 8 Revisor's instruction.** Instructs the Revisor of Statutes to replace or supplement all gender-based references related to marriage in Minnesota law and rules with the term

“spouse.”