

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 1999

SESSION LAW 2000-58
HOUSE BILL 973

AN ACT TO MAKE CHANGES TO THE GENERAL STATUTES ALLOWING A
SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE TO PERFORM MARRIAGE CEREMONIES.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. G.S. 51-1 reads as rewritten:

"§ 51-1. Requisites of marriage; solemnization.

The consent of a male and female person who may lawfully marry, presently to take each other as husband and wife, freely, seriously and plainly expressed by each in the presence of the other, and in the presence of an ordained minister of any religious denomination, minister authorized by his church, superior court judge of this State or of another state, or of a magistrate, and the consequent declaration by such ~~minister~~ minister, judge, or officer that such persons are husband and wife, shall be a valid and sufficient marriage: Provided, that the rite of marriage among the Society of Friends, according to a form and custom peculiar to themselves, shall not be interfered with by the provisions of this Chapter: Provided further, that marriages solemnized and witnessed by a local spiritual assembly of the Baha'is, according to the usage of their religious community, shall be valid; provided further, marriages solemnized before March 9, 1909, by ministers of the gospel licensed, but not ordained, are validated from their consummation."

Section 2. This act is effective when it becomes law and expires on September 15, 2000.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 29th day of June, 2000.

s/ Marc Basnight
President Pro Tempore of the Senate

s/ James B. Black
Speaker of the House of Representatives

s/ James B. Hunt, Jr.
Governor

Approved 1:39 p.m. this 30th day of June, 2000