

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2003

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HOUSE BILL 382

Short Title: Marriage by District Court Judge.

(Public)

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Sponsors: Representative Tolson.

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Referred to: Judiciary III.

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March 10, 2003

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO ALLOW DISTRICT COURT JUDGES TO PERFORM MARRIAGE  
3 CEREMONIES.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 51-1 reads as rewritten:

6 "**§ 51-1. Requisites of marriage; solemnization.**

7 A valid and sufficient marriage is created by the consent of a male and female  
8 person who may lawfully marry, presently to take each other as husband and wife,  
9 freely, seriously and plainly expressed by each in the presence of the other, either:

10 (1) a. In the presence of an ordained minister of any religious  
11 denomination, a minister authorized by a church, a district court  
12 judge of this State, or a magistrate; and

13 b. With the consequent declaration by the ~~minister~~ minister, judge,  
14 or magistrate that the persons are husband and wife; or

15 (2) In accordance with any mode of solemnization recognized by any  
16 religious denomination, or federally or State recognized Indian Nation  
17 or Tribe.

18 Marriages solemnized before March 9, 1909, by ministers of the gospel licensed, but  
19 not ordained, are validated from their consummation."

20 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law and expires March  
21 31, 2003.