

By Senator Rossin

35-1363-00

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A bill to be entitled  
An act relating to marriage; providing  
legislative intent; providing an effective  
date.

WHEREAS, long-term marriage is held in high regard  
among Americans, more than 90 percent of whom believe it is a  
highly desirable goal, and

WHEREAS, in spite of this collective belief, Americans  
have a historically unprecedented proportion of marriages  
failing and children growing up in circumstances that are not  
conductive for producing healthy, happy, well-adjusted  
persons, and

WHEREAS, assisting states in encouraging the formation  
and maintenance of two-parent families is one of the four  
stated purposes of federal welfare reform, and

WHEREAS, more and more states are beginning to explore  
legislative proposals to reduce divorce and strengthen  
marriage, and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida has taken an early lead  
in addressing the need to reduce the rate of divorce and  
encourage strong, safe, stable marriages and families by  
enacting the Marriage Preservation and Preparation Act of  
1998, NOW, THEREFORE,

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. The Legislature intends to provide the  
direction necessary to increase public awareness of the  
problems of failing marriages, not only for individuals, but  
also for communities and the larger society. It is also the

1 intent of the Legislature, that, to the extent practicable,  
2 the laws of this state should be revised to encourage,  
3 promote, and value strong, safe, long-term marriages.

4           Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
5 law.

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8                               SENATE SUMMARY

9           Expresses the legislative intent to increase public  
10 awareness of the problems of failing marriages and to  
11 revise the laws to encourage, promote, and value strong,  
12 safe, long-term marriages.

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