

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to premarital preparation; amending s.
 3 741.01, F.S.; providing for an additional marriage license
 4 fee and distribution of proceeds; providing for refund of
 5 this additional fee for completion of a premarital
 6 preparation course; amending s. 741.011, F.S.; conforming
 7 a provision to changes made by this act; amending s.
 8 741.0305, F.S.; increasing the minimum number of hours of
 9 a premarital preparation course; specifying that the use
 10 of a premarital inventory may be a part of a premarital
 11 preparation course; providing a definition; providing an
 12 effective date.

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

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16 Section 1. Subsections (4) and (5) of section 741.01,
 17 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

18 741.01 County court judge or clerk of the circuit court to
 19 issue marriage license; fee.--

20 (4) ~~An~~ Additional fees ~~fee~~ ~~of \$25~~ shall be paid to the
 21 clerk upon receipt of the application for issuance of a marriage
 22 license and. ~~The moneys collected~~ shall be remitted by the clerk
 23 to the Department of Revenue, monthly, as follows:

24 (a) Twenty-five dollars for deposit in the General Revenue
 25 Fund.

26 (b) One hundred dollars for deposit in the Marriage
 27 Education Trust Fund.

28 (5) The fee charged for each marriage license issued in
 29 the state shall be reduced by a sum of \$132.50 ~~\$32.50~~ for all
 30 couples who present valid certificates of completion of a
 31 premarital preparation course from a qualified course provider
 32 registered under s. 741.0305(5) for a course taken no more than
 33 1 year prior to the date of application for a marriage license.
 34 For each license issued that is subject to the fee reduction of
 35 this subsection, the clerk is not required to transfer the sum
 36 of \$7.50 to the Department of Revenue for deposit in the
 37 Displaced Homemaker Trust Fund pursuant to subsection (3), ~~or~~ to
 38 transfer the sum of \$25 to the Department of Revenue for deposit
 39 in the General Revenue Fund, or to transfer the sum of \$100 to
 40 the Department of Revenue for deposit in the Marriage Education
 41 Trust Fund.

42 Section 2. Section 741.011, Florida Statutes, is amended
 43 to read:

44 741.011 Installment payments.--An applicant for a marriage
 45 license who is unable to pay the fees required under s. 741.01
 46 in a lump sum may make payment in not more than three
 47 installments over a period of 90 days. The clerk shall accept
 48 installment payments upon receipt of an affidavit that the
 49 applicant is unable to pay the fees in a lump-sum payment. Upon
 50 receipt of the third or final installment payment, the marriage
 51 license application shall be deemed filed, and the clerk shall
 52 issue the marriage license to the applicant and distribute the
 53 fees as provided in s. 741.01. In the event that the marriage
 54 license fee is paid in installments, the clerk shall retain \$1

55 from the additional fees ~~fee~~ imposed pursuant to s. 741.01(4),
 56 divided equally among them, as a processing fee.

57 Section 3. Subsections (1) and (2) of section 741.0305,
 58 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

59 741.0305 Marriage fee reduction for completion of
 60 premarital preparation course.--

61 (1) A man and a woman who intend to apply for a marriage
 62 license under s. 741.04 may, together or separately, complete a
 63 premarital preparation course of not less than 8 ~~4~~ hours. Each
 64 individual shall verify completion of the course by filing with
 65 the application a valid certificate of completion from the
 66 course provider, which certificate shall specify whether the
 67 course was completed by personal instruction, videotape
 68 instruction, instruction via other electronic medium, or a
 69 combination of those methods. All individuals who complete a
 70 premarital preparation course pursuant to this section must be
 71 issued a certificate of completion at the conclusion of the
 72 course by their course provider. Upon furnishing such
 73 certificate when applying for a marriage license, the
 74 individuals shall have their marriage license fee reduced by
 75 \$132.50 ~~\$32.50~~.

76 (2) (a) The premarital preparation course may include use
 77 of a premarital inventory and include instruction regarding:

- 78 1. ~~(a)~~ Conflict management.
- 79 2. ~~(b)~~ Communication skills.
- 80 3. ~~(c)~~ Financial responsibilities.
- 81 4. ~~(d)~~ Children and parenting responsibilities.

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82 ~~5.(e)~~ Data compiled from available information relating to
83 problems reported by married couples who seek marital or
84 individual counseling.

85 (b) For purposes of this subsection, the term "premarital
86 inventory" means a survey or questionnaire that a couple can
87 take that can be scored or evaluated or both and addresses
88 issues such as communication, conflict resolution, personality
89 types, marriage expectations, family of origin, children and
90 parenting, and financial habits. Some premarital inventories
91 also offer customized versions for couples who have been married
92 before and couples with children from prior marriages. The
93 purpose of a premarital inventory is to help couples better
94 understand each other, understand each other's expectations in
95 marriage, understand the common reasons for divorce, and
96 discover potential problems that might develop in their marriage
97 before they enter the relationship.

98 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2009.