

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to the Florida Marriage Handbook;
 3 creating s. 741.0307, F.S.; creating the Marriage
 4 Education Committee; providing for membership and
 5 terms of members; providing for administration within
 6 the Department of Children and Families; providing for
 7 creation of the Florida Marriage Handbook; providing
 8 topics that may be covered in the handbook; requiring
 9 the committee to obtain private funds for certain
 10 expenses; providing for distribution of the handbook
 11 and encouraging clerks of court to provide a list of
 12 course providers and sites where marriage and
 13 relationship skill-building classes are available;
 14 providing for review and revision of the handbook;
 15 amending s. 741.01, F.S.; requiring marriage license
 16 applications to provide applicants with an opportunity
 17 to receive an electronic copy of the handbook;
 18 providing an effective date.

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

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 22 Section 1. Section 741.0307, Florida Statutes, is created
 23 to read:

24 741.0307 Marriage Education Committee; Florida Marriage
 25 Handbook.—

26 (1) There is created the Marriage Education Committee,
 27 which shall consist of six marriage education and family
 28 advocates, two of whom shall be appointed by the Governor, two

29 of whom shall be appointed by the President of the Senate, and
30 two of whom shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
31 Representatives. The committee shall be appointed by September
32 1, 2013, and the appointees shall serve a 1-year term each or
33 until such time as the Florida Marriage Handbook has been
34 created, whichever is earlier. The committee shall submit the
35 completed Florida Marriage Handbook to the Governor, the
36 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
37 Representatives. The committee shall terminate with the
38 submission of the handbook. The committee shall subsequently be
39 reconstituted once every 10 years after July 1, 2013, to review
40 and update the contents of the Florida Marriage Handbook. The
41 Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the
42 House of Representatives shall each appoint two members to the
43 reconstituted committee. Any vacancy on the committee shall be
44 filled for the unexpired portion of the term in the same manner
45 as the original appointment. The committee is established within
46 the Department of Children and Families for administrative
47 purposes only.

48 (2) The Marriage Education Committee shall create the
49 Florida Marriage Handbook. The handbook shall provide resources,
50 information, and skills to help a couple have a healthy and
51 successful marriage. The handbook may include, but is not
52 limited to:

53 (a) Resources dealing with conflict resolution,
54 communication skills, family expectations, financial
55 responsibilities and management, domestic violence resources,
56 and parenting responsibilities.

57 (b) Current information from marriage education and family
58 advocates to assist a couple in forming and maintaining a long-
59 term marital relationship.

60 (c) Information regarding premarital education, marriage
61 enrichment education, and resources that are available to help
62 restore a marriage that is potentially moving toward
63 dissolution.

64 (d) Contact information and website links to additional
65 resources and local professional and community services to
66 further assist a couple.

67 (3) The Marriage Education Committee shall raise funds
68 from private sources for the design and layout of the handbook
69 and, if possible, to subsidize all or part of the printing and
70 distribution costs.

71 (4) The handbook shall be available from the clerk of the
72 circuit court upon application for a marriage license. The clerk
73 of the circuit court may also make the information in the
74 handbook available through electronic media and is encouraged to
75 provide a list of course providers and sites where marriage and
76 relationship skill-building classes are available.

77 (5) The Marriage Education Committee shall review the
78 Florida Marriage Handbook and provide a report to the Governor,
79 the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
80 Representatives every 10 years, or as soon thereafter as
81 practicable, explaining changes made to the handbook and
82 recommending further updates.

83 Section 2. Subsection (1) of section 741.01, Florida
84 Statutes, is amended to read:

CS/HB 1163

2013

85 | 741.01 County court judge or clerk of the circuit court to
86 | issue marriage license; fee.-

87 | (1) (a) Every marriage license shall be issued by a county
88 | court judge or clerk of the circuit court under his or her hand
89 | and seal. The county court judge or clerk of the circuit court
90 | shall issue such license, upon application for the license, if
91 | there appears to be no impediment to the marriage. An
92 | application for a marriage license must allow both parties to
93 | the marriage to state under oath in writing if they are the
94 | parents of a child born in this state and to identify any such
95 | child they have in common by name, date of birth, place of
96 | birth, and, if available, birth certificate number. The name of
97 | any child recorded by both parties must be transmitted to the
98 | Department of Health along with the original marriage license
99 | and endorsements. The county court judge or clerk of the circuit
100 | court shall collect and receive a fee of \$2 for receiving the
101 | application for the issuance of a marriage license.

102 | (b) A marriage license application shall offer the
103 | applicants the opportunity to obtain an electronic copy of the
104 | Florida Marriage Handbook and shall have a space for one or both
105 | applicants to provide an e-mail address to receive the handbook.
106 | Upon receipt of the request, the clerk shall send an electronic
107 | copy of the handbook to the applicant within 14 days after the
108 | receipt of the request.

109 | Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2013.