

By Senator Stargel

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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; providing
9 for distribution of handbook and encouraging clerks of
10 court to provide a list of course providers and sites
11 where marriage and relationship skill-building classes
12 are available; providing for review and revision of
13 the handbook; providing an effective date.

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

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17 Section 1. Section 741.0307, Florida Statutes, is created
18 to read:

19 741.0307 Marriage Education Committee; Florida Marriage
20 Handbook.—

21 (1) There is created the Marriage Education Committee,
22 which shall consist of six marriage education and family
23 advocates, two of whom shall be appointed by the Governor, two
24 of whom shall be appointed by the President of the Senate, and
25 two of whom shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
26 Representatives. The committee shall be appointed by September
27 1, 2013, and shall be reconstituted once every 10 years to
28 review and update the contents of the Florida Marriage Handbook.
29 The members shall be appointed to a 1-year term each or until

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30 completion of the review process. The committee is established
31 within the Department of Children and Families for
32 administrative purposes only.

33 (2) The Marriage Education Committee shall create the
34 Florida Marriage Handbook. The handbook shall provide resources,
35 information, and skills to help a couple have a healthy and
36 successful marriage. The handbook may include, but is not
37 limited to:

38 (a) Resources dealing with conflict resolution,
39 communication skills, family expectations, financial
40 responsibilities and management, and parenting responsibilities.

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

44 (c) Information regarding premarital education, marriage
45 enrichment education, and resources that are available to help
46 restore a marriage that is potentially moving toward
47 dissolution.

48 (d) Contact information and website links to additional
49 resources and local professional and community services to
50 further assist a couple.

51 (3) The handbook may be available from the clerk of the
52 circuit court upon application for a marriage license. The clerk
53 of the circuit court may also make the information in the
54 handbook available through electronic media and is encouraged to
55 provide a list of course providers and sites where marriage and
56 relationship skill-building classes are available.

57 (4) The Marriage Education Committee shall review the
58 Florida Marriage Handbook and provide a report to the Governor,

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59 the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
60 Representatives every 10 years, or as soon thereafter as
61 practicable, explaining changes made to the handbook and
62 recommending further updates.

63 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2013.