

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the Florida Guide to a Healthy
3 Marriage; creating s. 741.0307, F.S.; creating the
4 Marriage Education Committee; providing for the
5 creation of the Florida Guide to a Healthy Marriage;
6 providing for appointment of membership and terms of
7 office; providing requirements for the guide;
8 requiring the committee to submit the completed guide
9 to the Governor and the Legislature; providing guide
10 content; requiring the committee to obtain private
11 funds for the costs of the design and layout of the
12 guide; authorizing the committee to obtain private
13 funds for the costs of printing and distributing
14 copies of the guide; providing for distribution of
15 printed copies of the guide under certain
16 circumstances; encouraging clerks of court to provide
17 a list of course providers and websites where certain
18 classes are available; requiring the committee to
19 provide a report to the Governor and Legislature;
20 providing for review and revision of the guide;
21 amending s. 741.04, F.S.; prohibiting the issuance of
22 a marriage license until petitioners verify that both
23 parties have obtained and read the Florida Guide to a
24 Healthy Marriage or some other presentation of similar
25 information; providing an effective date.

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

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

741.0307 Marriage Education Committee; Florida Guide to a Healthy Marriage.—

(1) There is created within the Department of Children and Families, for administrative purposes only, the Marriage Education Committee for the sole purpose of creating the Florida Guide to a Healthy Marriage. Except as otherwise provided in this section, the committee shall operate in a manner consistent with s. 20.052. The committee shall consist of six marriage education and family advocates, two of whom shall be appointed by the Governor, two of whom shall be appointed by the President of the Senate, and two of whom shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The committee shall be appointed by September 1, 2020, and the appointees shall serve a 1-year term each or until such time as the Florida Guide to a Healthy Marriage has been created, whichever is earlier. The committee shall submit the completed guide to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives and terminates with the submission of the guide. The committee shall subsequently be reconstituted once every 10 years after July 1, 2020, to review and update the contents of

51 the guide. The Governor, the President of the Senate, and the
52 Speaker of the House of Representatives shall each appoint two
53 members to the reconstituted committee. A vacancy on the
54 committee shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the term
55 in the same manner as the original appointment.

56 (2) The guide shall include, but is not limited to:

57 (a) Resources regarding conflict management, communication
58 skills, family expectations, financial responsibilities and
59 management, domestic violence resources, and parenting
60 responsibilities.

61 (b) Current information from marriage education and family
62 advocates to assist in forming and maintaining a long-term
63 marital relationship.

64 (c) Information regarding premarital education, marriage
65 enrichment education, and resources that are available to help
66 restore a marriage that is potentially moving toward
67 dissolution.

68 (d) Contact information and website links to additional
69 resources and local professional and community services to
70 further assist a marital relationship.

71 (3) The Marriage Education Committee shall oversee the
72 design and layout of the guide. The committee shall raise funds
73 from private sources to cover the costs of the design and
74 layout. The committee may raise funds from private sources to
75 cover the costs of printing and distributing copies of the

76 | guide. If adequate funds are not raised to cover the costs of
 77 | printing and distribution, the committee will not be required to
 78 | print or distribute copies of the guide.

79 | (4) The clerk of the circuit court shall post an
 80 | electronic copy of the guide on its website. Additionally, if
 81 | the Marriage Education Committee provides printed copies of the
 82 | guide to the office of the clerk of the circuit court, the clerk
 83 | shall make the guide available to marriage license applicants.
 84 | The clerk of the circuit court is encouraged to provide a list
 85 | of course providers and sites where marriage and relationship
 86 | skill-building classes are available.

87 | (5) The Marriage Education Committee shall review the
 88 | guide and provide a report to the Governor, the President of the
 89 | Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives every 10
 90 | years, or as soon thereafter as practicable, detailing changes
 91 | made to the guide and recommending further updates.

92 | Section 2. Paragraph (c) is added to subsection (2) of
 93 | section 741.04, Florida Statutes, to read:

94 | 741.04 Issuance of marriage license.—

95 | (2) A county court judge or clerk of the circuit court may
 96 | not issue a license to marry until the parties to the marriage
 97 | file with the county court judge or clerk of the court a written
 98 | and signed affidavit, made and subscribed before a person
 99 | authorized by law to administer an oath, which provides:

100 | (c) A statement that verifies that both parties have

101 obtained and read or otherwise accessed the information
102 contained in the Florida Guide to a Healthy Marriage, as created
103 under s. 741.0307, or some other presentation of information
104 regarding conflict management, communication skills, family
105 expectations, financial responsibilities and management,
106 domestic violence resources, and parenting responsibilities.

107 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020.