

1                   **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2                   STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3                   1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

4 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR  
5 HOUSE BILL NO. 2205

By: Lay of the House

6                   and

7                   Frix of the Senate

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11                   COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

12                  An Act relating to marriage; amending 43 O.S. 2021,  
13                  Section 7, as amended by Section 3, Chapter 241,  
14                  O.S.L. 2022 (43 O.S. Supp. 2024, Section 7), which  
15                  relates to marriage ceremonies; modifying who may  
16                  perform formal ceremonies; and providing an effective  
17                  date.

18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

19                  SECTION 1.       AMENDATORY       43 O.S. 2021, Section 7, as

20                  amended by Section 3, Chapter 241, O.S.L. 2022 (43 O.S. Supp. 2024,  
21                  Section 7), is amended to read as follows:

22                  Section 7. A. All marriages must be contracted by a formal  
23                  ceremony performed or solemnized in the presence of at least two  
24                  adult, competent persons as witnesses, by a judge or retired judge

1 of any court in this state, or an ordained or authorized preacher  
2 ~~or, minister of the Gospel, priest, deacon, elder of the Gospel,~~  
3 priest, or other ecclesiastical dignitary of any denomination who  
4 has been duly ordained or authorized by the church to which he or  
5 she belongs to preach the Gospel, or a rabbi and who is at least  
6 eighteen (18) years of age.

7       B. 1. The judge shall place his or her order of appointment on  
8 file with the office of the court clerk of the county in which he or  
9 she resides.

10       2. The preacher, minister, priest, deacon, elder, rabbi, or  
11 ecclesiastical dignitary shall certify on the marriage certificate  
12 that he or she holds credentials or authority from his or her church  
13 or synagogue authorizing him or her to solemnize marriages.

14       C. No person herein authorized to perform or solemnize a  
15 marriage ceremony shall do so unless he or she has good reason to  
16 believe the persons presenting themselves before him or her for  
17 marriage are the identical persons named in the license, and for  
18 whose marriage the same was issued, and that there is no legal  
19 objection or impediment to such marriage.

20       D. Marriages between persons belonging to the society called  
21 Friends, or Quakers, the spiritual assembly of the Baha'is, or the  
22 Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, which have no ordained  
23 minister, may be solemnized by the persons and in the manner

1 | prescribed by and practiced in any such society, church, or  
2 | assembly.

3 | SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2025.

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5 | COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
6 | OVERSIGHT, dated 02/27/2025 - DO PASS, As Amended.  
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