

MAR 14 2001
HUMAN RESOURCES

HOUSE FILE 604
BY REYNOLDS and KREIMAN

Passed House, Date _____ Passed Senate, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to premarital education.
2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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HC 604

1 Section 1. Section 331.605, subsection 6, Code 2001, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 6. a. (1) For Except as provided in subparagraph (2),
4 for filing an application for the license to marry, thirty-
5 five dollars, which includes payment for one certified copy of
6 the original certificate of marriage, to be issued following
7 filing of the original certificate of marriage, four dollars
8 of which shall be retained by the county pursuant to
9 subsection 5.

10 (2) For filing an application for the license to marry,
11 four dollars, if the applicants submit and the county
12 registrar approves the certificate of completion of premarital
13 education pursuant to section 595.3B. The fee includes
14 payment for one certified copy of the original certificate of
15 marriage, to be issued following filing of the original
16 certificate of marriage, which fee shall be retained by the
17 county pursuant to subsection 5.

18 b. For issuing an application for an order of the district
19 court authorizing the validation of a license to marry before
20 the expiration of three days from the date of issuance of the
21 license, five dollars. The district court shall authorize the
22 early validation of a marriage license without the payment of
23 any fees imposed in this subsection upon showing that the
24 applicant is unable to pay the fees.

25 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 595.3B APPLICATION -- PREMARITAL
26 EDUCATION.

27 1. An application form for a marriage license shall have
28 attached a certificate form to be used by the parties to
29 document completion of premarital education by the parties.
30 The certificate shall be completed by the parties and signed
31 by the person who provided the premarital education. The
32 certificate shall require provision of all of the following
33 information:

34 a. The name of the person providing the premarital
35 education and the person's signature verifying completion of

1 the premarital education by the parties.

2 b. The number of hours of premarital education completed.

3 c. Whether the premarital education was provided by
4 personal instruction, videotaped instruction, instruction via
5 other electronic media, or a combination of these methods.

6 2. Only premarital education provided by the following
7 persons meet the requirements of provision of premarital
8 education under this section:

9 a. A person ordained or designated as a leader of a
10 party's religious faith.

11 b. A person licensed to practice psychology pursuant to
12 chapter 154B.

13 c. A person licensed to practice social work pursuant to
14 chapter 154C.

15 d. A person licensed to practice marital and family
16 therapy pursuant to chapter 154D.

17 3. If the parties applying for a license to marry complete
18 the premarital education certificate and the certificate is
19 approved, the parties shall pay a fee of only four dollars
20 pursuant to section 331.605, subsection 6.

21 EXPLANATION

22 This bill establishes requirements for premarital
23 education, which if completed and documented in a certificate
24 attached to a marriage license application allow the parties
25 applying for the marriage license to pay only a \$4 fee rather
26 than a \$35 fee for the filing of the marriage license
27 application. The bill specifies the persons who may provide
28 the premarital education in order to meet the requirements of
29 the bill and specifies the other information which must be
30 provided by the applicants in order to pay the reduced
31 marriage license application fee.

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**HOUSE FILE 604
FISCAL NOTE**

A fiscal note for **House File 604** is hereby submitted pursuant to Joint Rule 17. Data used in developing this fiscal note is available from the Legislative Fiscal Bureau to members of the Legislature upon request.

House File 604 establishes requirements for premarital education and specifies that if the proper requirements are met, parties applying for a marriage license will pay a \$4 dollar filing fee rather than the usual \$35 dollar fee.

ASSUMPTIONS

1. The number of marriage licenses filed will remain constant from year to year. In calendar year 1999, approximately 23,000 licenses were filed.
2. The current fee to file a marriage license is \$35. Of the \$35 collected, the county recorders receive \$4 and the remaining \$31 is deposited into the General Fund.
3. The purposed legislation allows parties applying for a marriage license to receive a \$31 discount if they fulfill all the requirements of completing premarital education. For each applicant who receives the discount, the General Fund revenues will decrease by \$31.
4. The number of applicants that will choose to seek premarital education and pay the discounted filing fee of \$4 cannot be determined. However, General Fund revenues will decrease by approximately \$71,000 for each 10.0% of the population that seeks premarital education and receives the discounted filing fee.

FISCAL IMPACT

The General Fund impact of House File 604 cannot be determined due to insufficient information to determine the number of applicants who would seek premarital education. It is estimated that for each 10.0% of the population who would seek premarital education, the decrease in General Fund revenues would be approximately \$71,000 annually.

SOURCE

Iowa Department of Public Health

(LSB 2312hh, RIT)

FILED MARCH 20, 2001

BY DENNIS PROUTY, FISCAL DIRECTOR