House File 142 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 142 BY FRY

A BILL FOR

- 1 An Act relating to a reduction in the application fee for a
- 2 license to marry based upon the completion of premarital
- 3 counseling.
- 4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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- 1 Section 1. Section 331.605, subsection 1, paragraph g, Code 2 2015, is amended to read as follows:
- 3 g. (1) For Except as provided in subparagraph (2), for
- 4 filing an application for the license to marry, thirty-five
- 5 dollars, which includes payment for one certified copy of the
- 6 original certificate of marriage, to be issued following filing
- 7 of the original certificate of marriage, four dollars of which
- 8 shall be retained by the county pursuant to paragraph "f".
- 9 (2) For filing an application for a license to marry, five
- 10 dollars, if the applicants submit and the county registrar
- 11 approves the certificate of completion of premarital counseling
- 12 pursuant to section 595.3B, which includes payment for one
- 13 certified copy of the original certificate of marriage, to
- 14 be issued following filing of the original certificate of
- 15 marriage, four dollars of which shall be retained by the county
- 16 pursuant to paragraph "f".
- 17 (3) For issuing an application for an order of the district
- 18 court authorizing the validation of a license to marry before
- 19 the expiration of three days from the date of issuance of the
- 20 license, five dollars. The district court shall authorize the
- 21 early validation of a marriage license without the payment
- 22 of any fees imposed in this paragraph upon showing that the
- 23 applicant is unable to pay the fees.
- 24 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 595.3B Application premarital
- 25 counseling.
- 26 l. An application form for a marriage license shall have
- 27 attached a certificate form to be used by the parties to
- 28 document completion of premarital counseling by the parties.
- 29 The certificate shall be completed by the parties and signed
- 30 by the person who provided the premarital counseling. The
- 31 certificate shall require provision of all of the following
- 32 information:
- 33 a. The name of the person providing the premarital
- 34 counseling and the person's signature verifying completion of
- 35 the premarital counseling by the parties.

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- 1 b. The number of hours of premarital counseling completed.
- c. Whether the premarital counseling was provided through
- 3 individual instruction or a premarital course, and whether the
- 4 counseling was provided in-person, via electronic media, or
- 5 through a combination of these methods.
- 6 2. Only premarital counseling provided by the following
- 7 persons meets the requirement of provision of premarital
- 8 counseling under this section:
- 9 a. A person ordained or designated as a leader of a party's
- 10 religious faith or the person's designee.
- ll b. A person licensed to practice psychology pursuant to
- 12 chapter 154B or licensed to practice psychology in any other
- 13 state.
- 14 c. A person licensed to practice social work pursuant to
- 15 chapter 154C or licensed to practice social work in any other
- 16 state.
- 17 d. A person licensed to practice marital and family therapy
- 18 pursuant to chapter 154D or licensed to practice marital and
- 19 family therapy in any other state.
- 3. If the parties applying for a license to marry complete
- 21 the premarital counseling certificate and the certificate is
- 22 approved, the parties shall pay the license fee of five dollars
- 23 pursuant to section 331.605.
- 24 EXPLANATION
- 25 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
- the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.
- 27 This bill relates to marriage license conditions and fees.
- 28 The bill reduces the marriage license fee for parties who have
- 29 completed premarital counseling from \$35 to \$5.
- 30 The bill provides that the application form for a marriage
- 31 license is to have attached a certificate form to be used by
- 32 the parties to document completion of premarital counseling.
- 33 The certificate is to be completed by the parties and signed by
- 34 the person who provided the premarital counseling. The bill
- 35 specifies the information to be included on the certificate

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- $\ensuremath{\text{l}}$ and specifies the persons who meet the requirements to provide
- 2 premarital education.