

Senate File 2136 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 2136
BY GREEN

A BILL FOR

- 1 An Act relating to marriage license requirements by requiring
- 2 premarriage legal counseling.
- 3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. Section 595.3, Code 2026, is amended by adding the
2 following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 6. Where the parties have not submitted
4 documentation with the application for a marriage license
5 demonstrating the parties attended one hour of premarriage legal
6 counseling provided by an attorney. The judicial branch, in
7 consultation with a private legal organization representing
8 lawyers in this state, shall prescribe the required content of
9 the premarriage legal counseling, including but not limited to
10 basic legal information about common marriage, dissolution of
11 marriage, and child custody issues.

12 EXPLANATION

13 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
14 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

15 This bill requires parties applying for a marriage license to
16 complete one hour of premarriage legal counseling provided by an
17 attorney. The bill directs the judicial branch, in consultation
18 with a private legal organization representing lawyers in this
19 state, to prescribe the content of the counseling, including
20 basic legal information concerning common marriage, divorce, and
21 child custody issues. A marriage license will not be issued
22 unless the parties submit documentation confirming completion of
23 the required counseling.