

Health Analytics and Vital Records

Division of Public Health

Dec 2022

HB 62 FAQs

What does this bill do?

This bill amends a portion of Title 24: Legislature and Lobbying, AS 24.60.030:

- AS 24.60.030 (a)(1)(D) was added to allow legislators to accept reasonable, ordinary, and customary travel and hospitality primarily for the purpose of solemnizing a marriage under AS 25.05.261(a)(4).

This bill also amends pieces of AS 25.05, the Alaska Marriage Code:

- Several sections were amended to change the requirement for two witnesses in the solemnization of marriage to one witness, and to change wording referencing 2 witnesses to 1 witness.
 - The witness must be 18 years of age or older and confirm that each party agrees to marry the other.
 - AS 25.05.321 was amended to add subsection (b) to require the person solemnizing the marriage and the one witness to provide printed names, phone number, mailing and email addresses.
- AS 25.05.171(a) was repealed and (b) is amended to raise the age that a superior court judge can grant permission for a person to marry from 14 to 16 years. The other party to the marriage cannot be more than 3 years older. Parents must also give consent.

Title 25, Marital and Domestic Relations, AS 25.20.020 was also amended:

- AS 25.20.020 was amended to say that a person arrives at the age of majority upon being married by law.

How will this change the process for getting married?

- The process to get married will remain the same, with minor exceptions.
- Persons aged 14-15 years can no longer get married in any situation.
- Those aged 16-17 years will be required to get a court order as opposed to only parental consent as before this bill become law.
- If you are 16-17 years old, the person you are marrying can be no more than 3 years older.
- Couples will only be required to have one witness at the ceremony and sign the marriage certificate.
- Additional contact information for the marriage commissioner and the witness will be required to be provided on the marriage certificate.

Will the marriage license look different?

- This bill will require changes to the current marriage certificate, that is signed at the marriage ceremony, to accommodate the change from two to one witness and add the demographic fields for the person solemnizing and the witness.
- A statement will be added to the marriage certificate stating that the person solemnizing the marriage and the witness have confirmed that both parties are entering the marriage intentionally.