

# Bill as Introduced

HB 73 - AS INTRODUCED

2009 SESSION

09-0317  
05/01

HOUSE BILL           **73**

AN ACT               relative to the solemnization of marriage.

SPONSORS:           Rep. Weber, Ches 2; Sen. Lasky, Dist 13

COMMITTEE:         Judiciary

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ANALYSIS

This bill permits members of the clergy, religious officiants, and others who are licensed by the secretary of state to solemnize marriages.

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Explanation:       Matter added to current law appears in *bold italics*.  
Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough]~~  
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Nine*

AN ACT relative to the solemnization of marriage.

*Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:*

1 1 Who May Solemnize Marriage. Amend RSA 457:31 to read as follows:

2 457:31 Who May Solemnize. Marriage may be solemnized:

3 I. By a justice of the peace as commissioned in the state;

4 II. By any ~~[minister of the gospel]~~ **member of the clergy** in the state who has been  
5 ordained according to the usage of his or her denomination, resides in the state, and is in regular  
6 standing with the denomination;

7 III. By any **member of the clergy** who is not ordained but is engaged in the service of the  
8 religious body to which he or she belongs, **and** resides in the state, after being licensed therefor by  
9 the secretary of state;

10 IV. **By a religious officiant or such other person or group as may be authorized by**  
11 **their church, religion, sect, or denomination to solemnize marriages in the way usually**  
12 **practiced among them, after being licensed therefor by the secretary of state;**

13 V. Within his or her parish, by any ~~[minister]~~ **member of the clergy** residing out of the  
14 state, but having a pastoral charge wholly or partly in this state; or

15 VI. By judges of the United States appointed pursuant to Article III of the United States  
16 Constitution, by bankruptcy judges appointed pursuant to Article I of the United States  
17 Constitution, or by United States magistrate judges appointed pursuant to federal law.

18 2 Effect of Informality. Amend RSA 457:36 to read as follows:

19 457:36 Effect of Informality. No marriage solemnized before a person professing to be a justice  
20 of the peace or ~~[minister of the gospel]~~ **member of the clergy** shall be void, nor shall its validity be  
21 affected on account of want of jurisdiction or authority in such supposed justice or ~~[minister]~~ **clergy**  
22 **member**, or on account of any omission or informality in the certificate of intention of marriage, if  
23 the marriage is in other respects lawful and has been consummated with the belief on the part of  
24 either of the parties thereto that they were lawfully married.

25 3 Repeal. RSA 457:37, relative to exception to the solemnization of marriage, is repealed.

26 4 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

# Speakers



# Hearing Minutes

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

PUBLIC HEARING ON HB 73

**BILL TITLE:** relative to the solemnization of marriage.

**DATE:** March 3, 2009

**LOB ROOM:** 208      **Time Public Hearing Called to Order:** 11:05a

**Time Adjourned:** 11:25a

(please circle if present)

**Committee Members:** Reps. D. Cote, Wall, Potter, Hackel, P. Preston, G. Richardson, L. Weber, B. Browne, Nixon, Thompson, Watrous, Rowe, M. Elliott, DiFruscia, W. O'Brien, Hagan, L. Perkins, Silva, W. Smith and Mead

**Bill Sponsors:** Rep. Weber, Ches 2; Sen. Lasky, Dist 13

TESTIMONY

\* Use asterisk if written testimony and/or amendments are submitted.

**Rep. Lucy Weber; sponsor**

A bill with the same wording passed the House last year and was defeated in the Senate. The wording in current law is not inclusive because it favors certain religions. The wording in this bill gives no preference to any one religion. This legislation leaves in statute wording that allows a minister to solemnize marriage without holding a license by the state to do so.

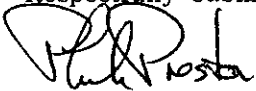
**Will Alberzi; Pelham; supports**

It is important to him to have people in the state treated equally.

**David Erikson; Society of Friends member; supports**

He suggests that marriages should be allowed according to the traditional customs of the religious group.

Respectfully submitted,



Rep. Philip Preston, Clerk

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

PUBLIC HEARING ON HB 73

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**Bill Sponsors:** Rep. Weber, Ches 2; Sen. Lasky, Dist 13

TESTIMONY

\* Use asterisk if written testimony and/or amendments are submitted.

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Philip Preston, Clerk



## Subcommittee

AB 73

- ① Last year, the identical bill ~~the~~ but ~~same bill~~ ~~last year~~, passed in House, died in Senate
- Current <sup>statute</sup> ~~wording~~ is ~~not~~ inclusive, <sup>because</sup> ~~it~~ favors certain religions.
- Wording in the bill gives no preference to any one religion
- The fact that
- Sponsor chose to leave in statute wording that allows minister to solemnize marriage w/o licence by state
- Thompson

- ② Will ~~the~~ Alberzi Pelham, support
- important to him to have people in the state treated equally

- ③ David Erikson, member of Society of Friends support
- Suggest the marriages should be allowed according to traditional customs of the religious group. (Specifically Quakers)

# Sub-Committee Actions

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**  
**SUBCOMMITTEE WORK SESSION ON HB 73**

**BILL TITLE:** relative to the solemnization of marriage.

**DATE:** March 12, 2009

**Subcommittee Members:** Reps. Richardson, Nixon, Hackel, Hagan, Elliott

**Comments and Recommendations:**

**Amendments:**

Sponsor: Rep.	OLS Document #:
Sponsor: Rep.	OLS Document #:
Sponsor: Rep.	OLS Document #:

**Motions:** OTP, OTP/A, ITL, Interim Study (Please circle one.)

Moved by Rep. Hackel

Seconded by Rep. Nixon

Vote: 3-1

**Motions:** OTP, OTP/A, ITL, Interim Study (Please circle one.)

Moved by Rep.

Seconded by Rep.

Vote:

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Gary Richardson  
Subcommittee Chairman/Clerk

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY  
SUBCOMMITTEE WORK SESSION ON HB 73

**BILL TITLE:** relative to the solemnization of marriage.

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**Subcommittee Members:** Reps. Richardson, Nixon, Hackel, Hagan, Elliott

**Comments and Recommendations:**

**Amendments:**

Sponsor: Rep.	OLS Document #:
Sponsor: Rep.	OLS Document #:
Sponsor: Rep.	OLS Document #:

**Motions:** OTP, OTP/A, ITL, Interim Study (Please circle one.)

Moved by Rep. *HACKEL*

Seconded by Rep. *NIXON*

Vote: *YEAS: 1. RICHARDSON; 2. HACKEL; 3. NIXON. NAYS: 1. ELLIOTT*

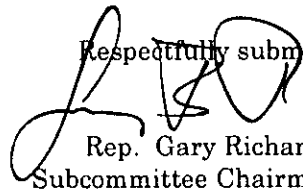
**Motions:** OTP, OTP/A, ITL, Interim Study (Please circle one.)

Moved by Rep.

Seconded by Rep.

Vote:

Respectfully submitted,

  
Rep. Gary Richardson  
Subcommittee Chairman/Clerk

# Testimony

# TITLE XLIII

## DOMESTIC RELATIONS

### CHAPTER 457

### MARRIAGES

#### Solemnization of Marriage

##### Section 457:31

**457:31 Who May Solemnize.** – Marriage may be solemnized by a justice of the peace as commissioned in the state; by any minister of the gospel in the state who has been ordained according to the usage of his or her denomination, resides in the state, and is in regular standing with the denomination; by any clergy who is not ordained but is engaged in the service of the religious body to which he or she belongs, resides in the state, after being licensed therefor by the secretary of state; within his or her parish, by any minister residing out of the state, but having a pastoral charge wholly or partly in this state; by judges of the United States appointed pursuant to Article III of the United States Constitution, by bankruptcy judges appointed pursuant to Article I of the United States Constitution, or by United States magistrate judges appointed pursuant to federal law.

**Source.** RS 147:6. CS 156:6. 1861, 2484:1. GS 161:9. 1877, 57:1. GL 180:9. PS 174:8. 1919, 56:1. 1921, 79:1. PL 286:28. RL 338:31. RSA 457:31. 1969, 435:1. 1998, 294:1. 2001, 11:1, eff. April 24, 2001. 2006, 86:2, eff. July 4, 2006.

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##### Section 457:37

**457:37 Exceptions.** – Nothing contained in this chapter shall affect the right of Jewish Rabbis residing in this state, or of the people called Friends or Quakers, to solemnize marriages in the way usually practiced among them, and all marriages so solemnized shall be valid. Jewish Rabbis residing out of the state may obtain a special license as provided by RSA 457:32.

**Source.** RS 147:8. CS 156:8. 1854, 1518:4. GS 161:7. GL 180:7. PS 174:13. PL 286:34. 1927, 45:1. RL 338:37. RSA 457:37. 1992, 243:2, eff. July 12, 1992.

HB 1192 - AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

12Mar2008... 0509h

2008 SESSION

08-2192  
05/01

HOUSE BILL **1192**

AN ACT relative to the solemnization of marriage.

SPONSORS: Rep. Bedrick, Rock 4; Rep. Nielsen, Sull 4

COMMITTEE: Judiciary

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill permits members of the clergy, religious officiants, and others who are licensed by the secretary of state to solemnize marriages.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in **bold italics**.  
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5 ordained according to the usage of his or her denomination, resides in the state, and is in regular  
6 standing with the denomination;

7 III. By any **member of the clergy** who is not ordained but is engaged in the service of the  
8 religious body to which he or she belongs, **and** resides in the state, after being licensed therefor by  
9 the secretary of state;

10 IV. **By a religious officiant or such other person or group as may be authorized by**  
11 **their church, religion, sect, or denomination to solemnize marriages in the way usually**  
12 **practiced among them, after being licensed therefor by the secretary of state;**

13 V. Within his or her parish, by any ~~[minister]~~ **member of the clergy** residing out of the  
14 state, but having a pastoral charge wholly or partly in this state; or

15 VI. By judges of the United States appointed pursuant to Article III of the United States  
16 Constitution, by bankruptcy judges appointed pursuant to Article I of the United States  
17 Constitution, or by United States magistrate judges appointed pursuant to federal law.

18 2 Effect of Informality. Amend RSA 457:36 to read as follows:

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20 of the peace or ~~[minister of the gospel]~~ **member of the clergy** shall be void, nor shall its validity be  
21 affected on account of want of jurisdiction or authority in such supposed justice or ~~[minister]~~ **clergy**  
22 **member**, or on account of any omission or informality in the certificate of intention of marriage, if  
23 the marriage is in other respects lawful and has been consummated with the belief on the part of  
24 either of the parties thereto that they were lawfully married.

25 3 Repeal. RSA 457:37, relative to exception to the solemnization of marriage, is repealed.

26 4 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.



## New Hampshire General Court - Bill Status System

**Docket of HB1192**

Docket Abbreviations

**Bill Title:** (New Title) relative to the solemnization of marriage.*Official Docket of HB1192:*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Body</b>	<b>Description</b>
12/10/2007	H	Introduced 1/2/2008 and Referred to Judiciary; <b>HJ 7</b> , PG.342
12/18/2007	H	Public Hearing: 1/24/2008 1:00 PM LOB 206-208
02/05/2008	H	==CANCELLED==Executive Session: 2/11/08 10:00 AM LOB 208
02/12/2008	H	Executive Session: 2/19/2008 10:00 AM LOB 208 (Continued 2/20/08 10:00 AM LOB 208 If Needed)
02/21/2008	H	Majority Comm Report: Ought to Pass with AM #0509h NT for Mar 5 Reg (vote 12-6); <b>HC 18</b> , PG.982-983
02/21/2008	H	Proposed Majority Committee Amendment #0509h (New Title); <b>HC 17</b> , PG.832-833
02/21/2008	H	Minority Committee Report: Inexpedient to Legislate; <b>HC 18</b> , PG.983
03/05/2008	H	Special Ordered to Beginning of Regular Calendar for Mar 12: Without Objection; <b>HJ 22</b> , PG.1296
03/12/2008	H	Amendment #0509h (New Title) Adopted, VV; <b>HJ 24</b> , PG.1320
03/12/2008	H	Floor Amendment #0773h (New Title)(Rep N.Elliott) Failed, VV; <b>HJ 24</b> , PG.1320-1321
03/12/2008	H	Lay On Table (Rep Lund): MF VV; <b>HJ 24</b> , PG.1321
03/12/2008	H	Ought to Pass with Amendment #0509h NT: MA <b>RC 242-81</b> ; <b>HJ 24</b> , PG.1319-1323
03/13/2008	S	Introduced and Referred to Judiciary; <b>SJ 9</b> , Pg.239
03/26/2008	S	Hearing; April 3, 2008, Room 103, State House, 2:30 p.m.; <b>SC13</b>
05/07/2008	S	Committee Report; Inexpedient to Legislate [05/14/08]; <b>SC19</b>
05/14/2008	S	Inexpedient to Legislate, MA, VV === BILL KILLED ===; <b>SJ 17</b> , Pg.551

NH House

NH Senate

Contact Us

*New Hampshire General Court Information Systems*  
 107 North Main Street - State House Room 31, Concord NH 03301

**HB 1192**, repealing the statute on exceptions to the solemnization of marriage.

**MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Lucy McV Weber for the **Majority** of Judiciary: RSA 457: 31 currently lists the categories of people who may solemnize marriage. Among those currently listed are a justice of the peace, an ordained minister of the gospel, any clergy not ordained but engaged in the service of the religious body to which he or she belongs, and a minister residing out of the state, but having a pastoral charge within the state. A subsequent section, RSA 457:38, titled "Exceptions," currently provides "[n]othing in this chapter shall affect the right of Jewish Rabbis residing in this state or of the people called Friends or Quakers, to solemnize marriages in the way usually practiced among them." The purpose of this bill is to remove the reference singling out these two religious groups as exceptions, and to broaden the statutory language to also include the many other religious traditions which have for so long been omitted. To do so, two changes have been made. First, a new category has been added to RSA 457:31 to allow solemnization by "a religious officiant or such other person or group as may be authorized by their church, religion, sect, or denomination to solemnize marriages in the way usually practiced among them." Second, the words "minister of the gospel" have been changed to the more inclusive "member of the clergy." The wording changes do not remove any authority from any group already authorized to perform marriages, and impose no different requirements on those already authorized to perform marriages. They simply serve to include all religious traditions. **Vote 12-6.**

Rep. Nancy J Elliott for the **Minority** of Judiciary: This bill as amended by the committee removes all references to Christianity from our marriage laws. The minority sought to be inclusive with an amendment that accomplished the sponsors' objectives while preserving the traditional references to Christianity. This was rejected in committee. The object of the committee amendment was not to include other faiths, but to remove the Christian faith. While the majority of our citizens in NH are Christians, this intolerant change seeks to disenfranchise them.

# Voting Sheets

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 73

**BILL TITLE:** relative to the solemnization of marriage.

**DATE:** MAR 17, 2009

**LOB ROOM:** 208

**Amendments:**

Sponsor: Rep. OLS Document #:

Sponsor: Rep. OLS Document #:

Sponsor: Rep. OLS Document #:

**Motions:** OTP, OTP/A, ITL, Interim Study (Please circle one.)

Moved by Rep. RICHARDSON

Seconded by Rep. WEBER

Vote: 12-8 (Please attach record of roll call vote.)

**Motions:** OTP, OTP/A, ITL, Interim Study (Please circle one.)

Moved by Rep.

Seconded by Rep.

Vote: (Please attach record of roll call vote.)

REGULAR or CONSENT CALENDAR

(Vote to place on Consent Calendar must be unanimous.)

**Statement of Intent:** Refer to Committee Report

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Philip Preston, Clerk

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 73

BILL TITLE: relative to the solemnization of marriage.

DATE: MAR 17, 2009

LOB ROOM: 208

Amendments:

Sponsor: Rep. OLS Document #:

Sponsor: Rep. OLS Document #:

Sponsor: Rep. OLS Document #:

Motions: OTP, OTP/A, ITL, Interim Study (Please circle one.)

Moved by Rep. *Richardson*

Seconded by Rep. *Weber*

Vote: *12/8* (Please attach record of roll call vote.)

Motions: OTP, OTP/A, ITL, Interim Study (Please circle one.)

Moved by Rep.

Seconded by Rep.

Vote: (Please attach record of roll call vote.)

REGULAR or CONSENT CALENDAR (please circle one)

(Vote to place on Consent Calendar must be unanimous.)

Statement of Intent: Refer to Committee Report

Respectfully submitted,  
*Philip Preston*  
Rep. Philip Preston, Clerk



# Committee Report

**REGULAR CALENDAR**

**March 19, 2009**

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**REPORT OF COMMITTEE**

**The Majority of the Committee on JUDICIARY to which  
was referred HB73,**

**AN ACT relative to the solemnization of marriage.**

**Having considered the same, report the same with the  
recommendation that the bill OUGHT TO PASS.**

**Rep. Janet G Wall**

**FOR THE MAJORITY OF THE COMMITTEE**



**MAJORITY  
COMMITTEE REPORT**

Committee: **JUDICIARY**  
Bill Number: **HB73**  
Title: **relative to the solemnization of marriage.**  
Date: **March 19, 2009**  
Consent Calendar: **NO**  
Recommendation: **OUGHT TO PASS**

**STATEMENT OF INTENT**

RSA 457:31 currently lists the categories of people who may solemnize marriage. Among these currently listed are a justice of the peace, an ordained minister of the gospel, and any clergy not ordained but engaged in the service of the religious body to which he or she belongs. A subsequent section, entitled "Exceptions" currently allows Jewish Rabbis and "the people called Friends or Quakers" to solemnize marriage according to their traditions. The purpose of this bill is to remove the reference singling out these two religious groups as exceptions, and to include the many other faith traditions which have for so long been omitted. The bill also changes the words "minister of the gospel" to the more inclusive "member of the clergy". The wording changes do not remove any authority from any person already authorized to perform marriages. They simply serve to include all religious traditions.

Vote 12-8

Rep. Janet G Wall  
FOR THE MAJORITY

Original: House Clerk  
Cc: Committee Bill File

## REGULAR CALENDAR

### JUDICIARY

**HB73**, relative to the solemnization of marriage. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Janet G Wall for the **Majority** of JUDICIARY. RSA 457:31 currently lists the categories of people who may solemnize marriage. Among these currently listed are a justice of the peace, an ordained minister of the gospel, and any clergy not ordained but engaged in the service of the religious body to which he or she belongs. A subsequent section, entitled "Exceptions" currently allows Jewish Rabbis and "the people called Friends or Quakers" to solemnize marriage according to their traditions. The purpose of this bill is to remove the reference singling out these two religious groups as exceptions, and to include the many other faith traditions which have for so long been omitted. The bill also changes the words "minister of the gospel" to the more inclusive "member of the clergy". The wording changes do not remove any authority from any person already authorized to perform marriages. They simply serve to include all religious traditions. **Vote 12-8.**


Original: House Clerk  
Cc: Committee Bill File

HB 73 relative to the solemnization of marriage.

OTP MAJ 12-8 REG

RSA 457:31 currently lists the categories of people who may solemnize marriage. Among these currently listed are a justice of the peace, an ordained minister of the gospel, and any clergy not ordained but engaged in the service of the religious body to which he or she belongs. A subsequent section, entitled "Exceptions" currently allows Jewish Rabbis and "the people called Friends or Quakers" to solemnize marriage according to their traditions. The purpose of this bill is to remove the reference singling out these two religious groups as exceptions, and to include the many other faith traditions which have for so long been omitted. The bill also changes the words "minister of the gospel" to the more inclusive "member of the clergy". The wording changes do not remove any authority from any person already authorized to perform marriages. They simply serve to include all religious traditions.

Rep. Janet Wall.

OK - 

relative to the solemnization of marriage.  
HB 73 - ~~Solemnization of marriage.~~

OTP 12-8

Majority verb - ~~to solemnize~~

Have Col. ~~Thom~~ ~~bill~~

Mar 27  
2008

RSA 457:31 currently lists the categories of people who may solemnize marriage. Among those currently listed are a justice of the peace, an ordained minister of the gospel, <sup>and</sup> any clergy not ordained but engaged in the service of the religious body to which he or she belongs. A subsequent section, entitled "Exceptions" currently ~~provides~~ ~~Nothing in this chapter shall affect the rights of Jewish Rabbis~~

David -  
do you  
want this  
signed  
by me or  
by someone  
else?

allows Jewish Rabbis and "the people called Friends or Quakers" to solemnize marriage according ~~to~~ to their traditions. The purpose of this bill is to remove the reference singling out these two religious groups as exceptions, and to include the many other faith traditions which have for so long been omitted. The bill also changes the words "minister of the Gospel" to the more ~~broad~~ inclusive "member of the clergy." The wording changes do not remove any authority from any person already authorized to perform marriages. They simply serve to include all religious traditions.

OK - DJ

Jamie Wall

**REGULAR CALENDAR**

**March 19, 2009**

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**REPORT OF COMMITTEE**

**The Minority of the Committee on JUDICIARY to which  
was referred HB73,**

**AN ACT relative to the solemnization of marriage.**

**Having considered the same, and being unable to agree  
with the Majority, report with the following Resolution:**

**RESOLVED, That it is INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

**Rep. William L O'Brien**

**FOR THE MINORITY OF THE COMMITTEE**

## MINORITY COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee: **JUDICIARY**  
Bill Number: **HB73**  
Title: **relative to the solemnization of marriage.**  
Date: **March 19, 2009**  
Consent Calendar: **NO**  
Recommendation: **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE**

### STATEMENT OF INTENT

The minority did not hear the sponsor or committee proponents of this bill demonstrate that it addresses any problem or solves any problem. No more, nor fewer people will be married by the passage of this bill. But, it became apparent, that is not the point. Rather, the point of this legislation is to move New Hampshire into a post-Christian world; a world where terms such as "minister of the gospel" are condemned as highly exclusionary and offensive, and are to be discarded despite literally centuries of use in our laws. A world in which we abandon our Judeo-Christian tradition as a country that has a secular government combined with a society based on religious values. Values that are founded on a strong biblical view of a world in which there can be earthly justice; there is an emphasis on laws; there is a belief in judging, as well as in love and forgiving and the sanctity of all individuals, from whatever religion or part of the world. Values that serve as both the essence and also the foundation of American Exceptionalism. In exchange for this tradition, we will enter the amoral world of post-modern Europe, a world that stands for nothing, therefore falls for everything. A world that has no foundation of values and therefore falls in turn to the collectivist nightmares of the left: fascism and communism. A world that has no ideological defense to the stridency and prejudice of Islamo-fascism. This is the world of HB 73. Reject it and you reject HB 73.

Original: House Clerk  
Cc: Committee Bill File

Rep. William L O'Brien  
FOR THE MINORITY

Original: House Clerk  
Cc: Committee Bill File

## REGULAR CALENDAR

### JUDICIARY

**HB73**, relative to the solemnization of marriage. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. William L O'Brien for the **Minority** of JUDICIARY. The minority did not hear the sponsor or committee proponents of this bill demonstrate that it addresses any problem or solves any problem. No more, nor fewer people will be married by the passage of this bill. But, it became apparent, that is not the point. Rather, the point of this legislation is to move New Hampshire into a post-Christian world; a world where terms such as "minister of the gospel" are condemned as highly exclusionary and offensive, and are to be discarded despite literally centuries of use in our laws. A world in which we abandon our Judeo-Christian tradition as a country that has a secular government combined with a society based on religious values. Values that are founded on a strong biblical view of a world in which there can be earthly justice; there is an emphasis on laws; there is a belief in judging, as well as in love and forgiving and the sanctity of all individuals, from whatever religion or part of the world. Values that serve as both the essence and also the foundation of American Exceptionalism. In exchange for this tradition, we will enter the amoral world of post-modern Europe, a world that stands for nothing, therefore falls for everything. A world that has no foundation of values and therefore falls in turn to the collectivist nightmares of the left: fascism and communism. A world that has no ideological defense to the stridency and prejudice of Islamo-fascism. This is the world of HB 73. Reject it and you reject HB 73.

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## Statement of Intent – HB 73

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Rep. William O'Brien

**Larivee, Kathy**

---

**From:** William O'Brien [williamlobrien@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2009 7:20 PM  
**To:** Larivee, Kathy  
**Cc:** Rowe, Robert; Mead, Robert; peter silva; Hagan, Joseph; Lawrence Perkins, Jr.; DiFruscia, Anthony; will smith; Elliott, Nancy  
**Subject:** HB 73 Blurb  
**Attachments:** Statement of Intent for HB 73.doc

Kathy:

I typed it up along the lines discussed with the chairman. Please use this version.

Regards,  
Bill O'Brien

Statement of Intent – HB 73

The minority did not hear the sponsor or committee proponents of this bill demonstrate that it addresses any problem or solves any problem. No more, nor fewer people will be married by the passage of this bill. But, it became apparent, that is not the point. Rather, the point of this legislation is to move New Hampshire into a post-Christian world; a world where terms such as "minister of the gospel" are condemned as highly exclusionary and offensive, and are to be discarded despite literally centuries of use in our laws. A world in which we abandon our Judeo-Christian tradition as a country that has a secular government combined with a society based on religious values. Values that are founded on a strong biblical view of a world in which there can be earthly justice; there is an emphasis on laws; there is a belief in judging, as well as in love and forgiving and the sanctity of all individuals, from whatever religion or part of the world. Values that serve as both the essence and also the foundation of American Exceptionalism.

In exchange for this tradition, we will enter the amoral world of post-modern Europe, a world that stands for nothing, therefore falls for everything. A world that has no foundation of values and therefore falls in turn to the collectivist nightmares of the left: fascism and communism. A world that has no ideological defense to the stridency and prejudice of Islamo-fascism. This is the world of HB 73. Reject it and you reject HB 73.

William O'Brien

OK - [Signature]

3/19/2009