

HB 206-FN-A - AS INTRODUCED

2017 SESSION

17-0074

05/10

HOUSE BILL ***206-FN-A***

AN ACT establishing a special marriage officiant license.

SPONSORS: Rep. Cushing, Rock. 21; Rep. Eaton, Ches. 3; Rep. Lovejoy, Rock. 36; Rep. S. Harvey, Hills. 29; Rep. Mangipudi, Hills. 35; Rep. Rogers, Merr. 28; Rep. DeSimone, Rock. 14; Rep. McBeath, Rock. 26; Sen. Feltes, Dist 15

COMMITTEE: Judiciary

ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a special marriage officiant license, which temporarily authorizes an individual to solemnize a marriage. A portion of the license fee shall be deposited in the fund for domestic violence programs.

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 Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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

AN ACT establishing a special marriage officiant license.

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

1 1 New Section; Solemnization of Marriage; Special Marriage Officiant License. Amend
2 RSA 457 by inserting after section 32-a the following new section:

3 457:32-b Special Marriage Officiant License.

4 I. The secretary of state may issue a special marriage officiant license to an individual who
5 shall be temporarily authorized to solemnize a marriage in this state. The individual shall register
6 with the secretary of state and provide:

7 (a) A completed registration form, as prescribed by the secretary of state.

8 (b) An \$85 fee. The secretary of state shall forward \$80 of the fee to the department of
9 health and human services for deposit in the fund for domestic violence programs, established in
10 RSA 173-B:15, and shall retain the remainder of the fee for administrative costs associated with
11 issuance of the license.

12 II. Upon registration as a special marriage officiant, an individual shall be authorized to
13 solemnize only the civil marriage designated on the registration form and shall receive proof of that
14 authority from the secretary of state. The individual's authority to solemnize the marriage shall
15 expire at the same time as the corresponding license.

16 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

**HB 206-FN-A- FISCAL NOTE
AS INTRODUCED**

AN ACT establishing a special marriage officiant license.

FISCAL IMPACT: ☒ State ☐ County ☐ Local ☐ None

STATE:	Estimated Increase / (Decrease)			
	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
Appropriation	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Revenue	\$25,500	\$25,000	\$25,500	\$25,500
Expenditures	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
Funding Source:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Highway <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Special fund for domestic violence programs (RSA 173-B:15)			

METHODOLOGY:

This bill would authorize the Secretary of State to issue special marriage officiant licenses to individuals temporarily authorized to solemnize a marriage in this State. The legislation requires completion of a registration form and submission of an \$85 fee, \$80 which is to be forwarded to the Department of Health and Human Services for deposit in the fund for domestic violence programs established in RSA 173-B:15, and \$5 to be retained by the Secretary of State for administrative costs associated with the issuance of the license.

The Secretary of State estimates that 300 special licenses would be issued per year, resulting in \$24,000 in revenue to the fund for domestic violence programs and \$1,500 in revenue to the Department of State. The estimated cost of processing and postage for each special marriage officiant license is \$10 each or \$3,000 per year. The \$1,500 reimbursement from the license fee partially offsets this expense, yielding a net expenditure for the Department of \$1,500 per year.

The Department of Health and Human Services states there would be no fiscal impact on the Department as the funds are transferred to the Domestic Violence Fund, offsetting revenue and expenditures.

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

Department of State and Department of Health and Human Services