

1 State of Arkansas
2 81st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 1997
4 By: Senators Hunter and Boozman

As Engrossed: S1/16/97 S1/23/97

A Bill

ACT 146 OF 1997
SENATE BILL 5

For An Act To Be Entitled

"AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS CODE § 9-11-208 TO CLARIFY THAT
ARKANSAS DOES NOT ISSUE MARRIAGE LICENSES TO PERSONS OF
THE SAME SEX AND DOES NOT RECOGNIZE MARRIAGES BETWEEN
MEMBERS OF THE SAME SEX AND THEY ARE NOT ENTITLED TO THE
BENEFITS OF MARRIAGE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

Subtitle

"TO CLARIFY THAT ARKANSAS DOES NOT ISSUE
MARRIAGE LICENSES TO PERSONS OF THE SAME
SEX NOR RECOGNIZE MARRIAGES BETWEEN
MEMBERS OF THE SAME SEX."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 9-11-208 is amended to read as follows:

"9-11-208. License not issued to persons under age or to persons of the
same sex.

(a) No license shall be issued to persons to marry unless and until the
female shall attain the age of sixteen (16) years and the male the age of
seventeen (17) years and then only by written consent by a parent or guardian
until the male shall have attained the age of eighteen (18) years and the
female the age of eighteen (18) years.

(b) *It shall be the declared public policy* of the State of Arkansas to
recognize the marital union only of man and woman. No license shall be issued
to persons to marry another person of the same sex and no same-sex marriage
shall be recognized as entitled to the benefits of marriage.

(c) Marriages between persons of the same sex are prohibited in this
state. Any marriage entered into by persons of the same sex, where a marriage
license is issued by another state or by a foreign jurisdiction, shall be void

