

State of Arkansas

76th General Assembly

Regular Session, 1987

AS ENGROSSED 1/27/87

HOUSE BILL 1282

By: Representative Beatty

"AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 10 OF CHAPTER 94 OF THE REVISED STATUTES OF 1837, AS AMENDED [ARK. STAT. 55-216], TO AUTHORIZE ELECTED MUNICIPAL JUDGES TO SOLEMNIZE MARRIAGES.

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

SECTION 1. Section 10 of Chapter 94 of the Revised Statutes of 1837, the same being Arkansas Statute 55-216, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 10. For the purpose of being registered and perpetuating the evidence thereof marriage shall be solemnized only by the following persons:

First. By the Governor.

Second. By any judges of the courts of record within this State, including any former judge of a court of record who served at least four (4) or more years.

Third. By any justice of the peace of the county where the marriage is solemnized including any former justice of the peace who served at least three (3) or more terms since the passage of Amendment 55 to the Arkansas Constitution.

Fourth. By any regularly ordained minister or priest of any religious sect or denomination.

Fifth. By the mayor of any city or town.

Sixth. By any official appointed for that purpose by the Quorum Court of the county where the marriage is to be solemnized.

Seventh. Marriages solemnized through the traditional rite of the Religious Society of Friends, more commonly known as Quakers, is hereby recognized as valid to all intents and purposes the same as marriages otherwise contracted and solemnized in accordance with law. The functions, duties and liabilities of a party solemnizing marriage, as set forth in the marriage laws of this State, shall, in the case of marriages solemnized through the

traditional marriage rite of the Religious Society of Friends, be incumbent upon the clerk of the congregation, or in his absence, his duly designated alternate.

Eighth. Elected municipal court judges."

SECTION 2. All marriages solemnized by municipal court judges prior to the effective date of this Act are hereby declared valid ab initio.

SECTION 3. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are hereby repealed.

/s/ David Beatty

