

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas  
2 86th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2007  
4

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2476

5 By: Representative Lamoureux  
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## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO PROVIDE INFORMATIONAL PAMPHLETS ON  
10 MARRIAGE TO COUPLES RECEIVING A MARRIAGE LICENSE;  
11 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
12

### Subtitle

13 TO PROVIDE INFORMATIONAL PAMPHLETS ON  
14 MARRIAGE TO COUPLES RECEIVING A MARRIAGE  
15 LICENSE.  
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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 9, Chapter 11, Subchapter 2 is amended  
22 to add an additional section to read as follows:

23 9-11-222. Premarital information pamphlets.

24 (a) The General Assembly finds based on reliable research that:

25 (1) The divorce rate has been accelerating;

26 (2) Just as the family is the foundation of society, the marital  
27 relationship is the foundation of the family and strengthening marriages can  
28 only lead to stronger families, children, and communities, as well as a  
29 stronger economy;

30 (3) An inability to cope with stress from both internal sources  
31 and external sources leads to significantly higher incidents of domestic  
32 violence, child abuse, absenteeism, medical costs, learning deficiencies,  
33 social deficiencies, and divorce;

34 (4) Relationship skills can be learned;

35 (5) Once learned, relationship skills can facilitate  
36 communication between parties to a marriage and assist couples in avoiding



1 conflict;

2 (6) Once relationship skills are learned, they are generalized  
3 to parenting, the workplace, schools, neighborhoods, and civic relationships;

4 (7) By reducing conflict and increasing communication, stressors  
5 can be diminished and coping can be furthered;

6 (8) When effective coping exists, domestic violence, child  
7 abuse, and divorce and its effect on children, namely absenteeism, medical  
8 costs, learning deficiencies, and social deficiencies, are diminished; and

9 (9) The state has a compelling interest in educating its  
10 citizens with regard to marriage.

11 (b) The Administrative Office of the Courts shall promulgate an  
12 informational pamphlet, entitled "Smart Marriages: Information to Strengthen  
13 your Marriage" that shall be made available to any couple in Arkansas who  
14 receives a marriage license.

15 (c) The pamphlet shall include information on the following subjects  
16 related to success in marriage:

17 (1) Building communication skills;

18 (2) Dealing constructively with disagreements and conflict;

19 (3) Recognizing danger signals;

20 (4) Understanding expectations;

21 (5) Developing teamwork and friendship in marriage;

22 (6) Understanding marriage as a balancing act;

23 (7) Recognizing when one may need help; and

24 (8) Seeking help, including suggestions of where to look for  
25 help.

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