

State of Arkansas
86th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2007

A Bill

SENATE BILL 172

By: Senator Madison
By: Representative House

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO REMOVE THE JURISDICTIONAL LIMITATION
FOR A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE TO SOLEMNIZE
MARRIAGES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO REMOVE THE JURISDICTIONAL LIMITATION
FOR A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE TO SOLEMNIZE
MARRIAGES.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 9-11-213 is amended to read as follows:
9-11-213. Persons who may solemnize marriages.

(a) For the purpose of being registered and perpetuating the evidence thereof, marriage shall be solemnized only by the following persons:

- (1) The Governor;
- (2) Any former justice of the Arkansas Supreme Court;
- (3) 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) years or more;
- (4) 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)~~ two (2) terms since the passage of Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 55;
- (5) Any regularly ordained minister or priest of any religious



1 sect or denomination;

2 (6) The mayor of any city or town;

3 (7) Any official appointed for that purpose by the quorum court
4 of the county where the marriage is to be solemnized; or

5 (8) Any elected district court judge and any former municipal or
6 district court judge who served at least four (4) years.

7 (b)(1) Marriages solemnized through the traditional rite of the
8 Religious Society of Friends, more commonly known as Quakers, are recognized
9 as valid to all intents and purposes the same as marriages otherwise
10 contracted and solemnized in accordance with law.

11 (2) The functions, duties, and liabilities of a party
12 solemnizing marriage, as set forth in the marriage laws of this state, in the
13 case of marriages solemnized through the traditional marriage rite of the
14 Religious Society of Friends shall be incumbent upon the clerk of the
15 congregation or, in his or her absence, his or her duly designated alternate.