

ASSEMBLY, No. 82

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JANUARY 17, 1949

By Mr. BRESCHER

Referred to Committee on Revision and Amendment of Laws

AN ACT concerning marriages, and amending section 37:1-13 of the Revised Statutes.

1 BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New*
2 *Jersey:*

1 1. Section 37:1-13 of the Revised Statutes is amended to read as follows:

2 37:1-13. Each Judge of the County Court, magistrate of the municipal
3 court, recorder, police justice and mayor of this State, and every minister of
4 every religion, and judges of the criminal judicial district courts in counties
5 wherein such courts are or may be established, and judges of the juvenile
6 and domestic relations courts in counties in which such courts are or may be
7 established, are hereby authorized to solemnize marriage between such per-
8 sons as may lawfully enter into the matrimonial relation; and every re-
9 ligious society, institution or organization in this State may join together in
10 marriage such persons as are members of such society, institution or organi-
11 zation, or when one of such persons is a member of such society, institution
12 or organization, according to the rules and customs of the society, institu-
13 tion or organization to which they or either of them belong.

1 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

The purpose of this bill is to give authority to solemnize marriages to magistrates of the municipal court. Many large municipalities, which by their

form of government do not have a mayor, now have no one in said municipality authorized to serve the residents by performing civil marriages and said residents must travel unreasonable distances to the nearest authorized official at great inconvenience. This bill is to cure this situation which developed from the termination of the office of recorder and judge of police court under the new court system which said officials formerly served the residents in these matters. At present the large volume of civil marriage ceremonies from all communities will take the valuable time of county judges and the few high officials now qualified who already have little time for these trivial duties.

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6 be established, and judges of the juvenile and domestic relations courts in
7 counties in which such courts are or may be established, are hereby author-
8 ized to solemnize marriage between such persons as may lawfully enter into
9 the matrimonial relation; and every religious society, institution or organ-
10 ization in this State may join together in marriage such persons as are mem-
11 bers of such society, institution or organization, or when one of such persons
12 is a member of such society, institution or organization, according to the
13 rules and customs of the society, institution or organization to which they
14 or either of them belong.

1 2. All marriages heretofore solemnized by any municipal magistrate
2 or magistrate of the municipal court who was not at the time of such sol-
3 emnization authorized to solemnize marriages shall, if otherwise valid, be
4 as valid as if same had been solemnized by a person authorized to sol-
5 emnize marriages.

1 3. This act shall take effect immediately.