

By: Zedler

H.B. No. 178

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to the authority of a justice of the peace to waive the  
3 waiting period for a marriage ceremony.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5 SECTION 1. Section 2.204(c), Family Code, is amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 (c) An applicant may request a judge of a court with  
8 jurisdiction in family law cases, a justice of the supreme court, a  
9 judge of the court of criminal appeals, a county judge, a justice of  
10 the peace, or a judge of a court of appeals for a written waiver  
11 permitting the marriage ceremony to take place during the 72-hour  
12 period immediately following the issuance of the marriage license.  
13 If the judge finds that there is good cause for the marriage to take  
14 place during the period, the judge shall sign the waiver.  
15 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a judge under this  
16 section has the authority to sign a waiver under this section.

17 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
18 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
19 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
20 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
21 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.