

By: Pacheco

H.B. No. 2479

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to persons who are authorized to conduct a marriage  
3 ceremony.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 2.202(a), Family Code, is amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 (a) The following persons are authorized to conduct a  
8 marriage ceremony:

9 (1) a licensed or ordained Christian minister or  
10 priest;

11 (2) a Jewish rabbi;

12 (3) a person who is an officer of a religious  
13 organization and who is authorized by the organization to conduct a  
14 marriage ceremony;

15 (4) a justice of the supreme court, judge of the court  
16 of criminal appeals, justice of the courts of appeals, judge of the  
17 district, county, and probate courts, judge of the county courts at  
18 law, judge of the courts of domestic relations, judge of the  
19 juvenile courts, retired justice or judge of those courts, justice  
20 of the peace, retired justice of the peace, judge of a municipal  
21 court, retired judge of a municipal court, associate judge of a  
22 statutory probate court, retired associate judge of a statutory  
23 probate court, associate judge of a county court at law, retired  
24 associate judge of a county court at law, or judge or magistrate of

1 a federal court of this state; ~~and~~

2 (5) a retired judge or magistrate of a federal court of  
3 this state;

4 (6) a current member of the state legislature; and

5 (7) the current governor or lieutenant governor of the  
6 state.

7 SECTION 2. Subchapter C, Chapter 572, Government Code, is  
8 amended by adding Section 572.062 to read as follows:

9 Sec. 572.062. USE OF STATE EMPLOYEES OR CERTAIN STATE  
10 PROPERTY; PROHIBITION OF REMUNERATION. (a) A person authorized to  
11 conduct a marriage ceremony under Section 2.202(a)(6) or (7),  
12 Family Code, may not use in the course of any duties associated with  
13 conducting a ceremony:

14 (1) the services of a state employee during the  
15 employee's normal working hours; or

16 (2) postage or stationery purchased with state funds.

17 (b) A person authorized to conduct a marriage ceremony under  
18 Section 2.202(a)(6) or (7), Family Code, may not receive:

19 (1) remuneration for performance of the ceremony; or

20 (2) any gift with a value greater than \$50 for  
21 performance of the ceremony.

22 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.