HB130
172801-1
By Representative Hill (J)
RFD: Judiciary
First Read: 09-FEB-16
SYNOPSIS: This bill would clarify that those authorized or permitted to solemnize marriages pursuant to Alabama law are not required to solemnize the marriage of any person.

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

To amend Section 30-1-7, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to persons authorized to solemnize marriages; to specify that those authorized to solemnize marriages pursuant to the laws of this state are not required to solemnize the marriage of any person.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Section 30-1-7, Code of Alabama 1975, is amended to read as follows:

"§30-1-7.

(a) Generally. Marriages may be solemnized by any licensed minister of the gospel in regular communion with the
Christian church or society of which the minister is a member; by an active or retired judge of the Supreme Court, Court of Criminal Appeals, Court of Civil Appeals, any circuit court, or any district court within this state; by a judge of any federal court; or by an active or retired judge of probate.

"(b) Pastor of religious society; clerk of society to maintain register of marriages; register, etc., deemed presumptive evidence of fact. Marriage may also be solemnized by the pastor of any religious society according to the rules ordained or custom established by such society. The clerk or keeper of the minutes of each society shall keep a register and enter therein a particular account of all marriages solemnized by the society, which register, or a sworn copy thereof, is presumptive evidence of the fact.

"(c) Quakers, Mennonites, or other religious societies. The people called Mennonites, Quakers, or any other Christian society having similar rules or regulations, may solemnize marriage according to their forms by consent of the parties, published and declared before the congregation assembled for public worship.

"(d) No one authorized or permitted to solemnize marriages pursuant to this section or any other provision of Alabama law is required to solemnize a marriage for any person or persons."

Section 2. This act shall become effective upon its passage and approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.