

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to the Florida Guide to a Healthy
3 Marriage; creating s. 741.0307, F.S.; creating the
4 Marriage Education Committee; providing for membership
5 and terms of members; providing for the creation of
6 the Florida Guide to a Healthy Marriage; requiring the
7 committee to submit the completed guide to the
8 Governor and the Legislature; providing guide content;
9 requiring the committee to obtain private funds for
10 the costs of the design and layout of the guide;
11 authorizing the committee to obtain private funds for
12 the costs of printing and distributing copies of the
13 guide; providing for distribution of printed copies of
14 the guide under certain circumstances; encouraging
15 clerks of court to provide a list of course providers
16 and websites where certain classes are available;
17 requiring the committee to provide a report to the
18 Governor and Legislature; providing for review and
19 revision of the guide; amending s. 741.04, F.S.;
20 prohibiting the issuance of a marriage license until
21 petitioners verify that both parties have obtained and
22 read the Florida Guide to a Healthy Marriage or some
23 other presentation of similar information; providing
24 an effective date.
25

26 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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28 Section 1. Section 741.0307, Florida Statutes, is created
29 to read:

30 741.0307 Marriage Education Committee; Florida Guide to a
31 Healthy Marriage.-

32 (1) There is created within the Department of Children and
33 Families, for administrative purposes only, the Marriage
34 Education Committee. The committee shall consist of six marriage
35 education and family advocates, two of whom shall be appointed
36 by the Governor, two of whom shall be appointed by the President
37 of the Senate, and two of whom shall be appointed by the Speaker
38 of the House of Representatives. The committee shall be
39 appointed by September 1, 2018, and the appointees shall serve a
40 1-year term each or until such time as the Florida Guide to a
41 Healthy Marriage has been created, whichever is earlier. The
42 committee shall submit the completed guide to the Governor, the
43 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
44 Representatives and terminates with the submission of the guide.
45 The committee shall subsequently be reconstituted once every 10
46 years after July 1, 2018, to review and update the contents of
47 the guide. The Governor, the President of the Senate, and the
48 Speaker of the House of Representatives shall each appoint two
49 members to the reconstituted committee. A vacancy on the
50 committee shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the term

51 in the same manner as the original appointment.

52 (2) The guide shall include, but is not limited to:

53 (a) Resources regarding conflict management, communication
54 skills, family expectations, financial responsibilities and
55 management, domestic violence resources, and parenting
56 responsibilities.

57 (b) Current information from marriage education and family
58 advocates to assist in forming and maintaining a long-term
59 marital relationship.

60 (c) Information regarding premarital education, marriage
61 enrichment education, and resources that are available to help
62 restore a marriage that is potentially moving toward
63 dissolution.

64 (d) Contact information and website links to additional
65 resources and local professional and community services to
66 further assist a marital relationship.

67 (3) The Marriage Education Committee shall oversee the
68 design and layout of the guide. The committee shall raise funds
69 from private sources to cover the costs of the design and
70 layout. The committee may raise funds from private sources to
71 cover the costs of printing and distributing copies of the
72 guide. If adequate funds are not raised to cover the costs of
73 printing and distribution, the committee will not be required to
74 print or distribute copies of the guide.

75 (4) The clerk of the circuit court shall post an

76 electronic copy of the guide on its website. Additionally, if
77 the Marriage Education Committee provides printed copies of the
78 guide to the office of the clerk of the circuit court, the clerk
79 shall make the guide available to marriage license applicants.
80 The clerk of the circuit court is encouraged to provide a list
81 of course providers and sites where marriage and relationship
82 skill-building classes are available.

83 (5) The Marriage Education Committee shall review the
84 guide and provide a report to the Governor, the President of the
85 Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives every 10
86 years, or as soon thereafter as practicable, detailing changes
87 made to the guide and recommending further updates.

88 Section 2. Paragraph (c) is added to subsection (2) of
89 section 741.04, Florida Statutes, to read:

90 741.04 Marriage license issued.—

91 (2) No county court judge or clerk of the circuit court in
92 this state shall issue a license for the marriage of any person
93 unless there shall be first presented and filed with him or her:

94 (c) A statement that verifies that both parties have
95 obtained and read or otherwise accessed the information
96 contained in the Florida Guide to a Healthy Marriage, as created
97 under s. 741.0307, or some other electronic presentation of
98 information regarding conflict management, communication skills,
99 family expectations, financial responsibilities and management,
100 domestic violence resources, and parenting responsibilities.

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101 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.