

**SENATE**  
**STATE OF MINNESOTA**  
**NINETY-SECOND SESSION**

**S.F. No. 26**

(SENATE AUTHORS: LIMMER)

DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
01/11/2021	77	Introduction and first reading Referred to Civil Law and Data Practices Policy
01/14/2021	88	Comm report: To pass
	88	Second reading
01/19/2021	121	Special Order
	121	Third reading Passed
02/01/2021	203	Returned from House
		Presentment date 01/29/2021
	226	Governor's action Approval 01/29/2021
	226	Secretary of State Chapter 1 01/29/2021
		Effective date 01/01/21 (retroactive)

- 1.1 A bill for an act
- 1.2 relating to family law; extending the waiver of the in-person requirement for
- 1.3 marriage applications; amending Laws 2020, chapter 74, article 1, section 18.
- 1.4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:
- 1.5 Section 1. Laws 2020, chapter 74, article 1, section 18, is amended to read:
- 1.6 Sec. 18. **PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY; MARRIAGE LICENSE APPLICATION**
- 1.7 **AND OATH WITHOUT APPEARANCE.**
- 1.8 (a) For purposes of this section, "peacetime public health emergency" means any
- 1.9 peacetime emergency declared by the governor in an executive order that relates to the
- 1.10 infectious disease known as COVID-19.
- 1.11 (b) During the effective period of a peacetime public health emergency, each local
- 1.12 registrar may develop and implement procedures to examine the parties upon oath and
- 1.13 accept civil marriage license applications, signed by both parties, by mail, facsimile, or
- 1.14 electronic filing. Examination of the parties upon oath under this section may include
- 1.15 contemporaneous video or audio transmission or receipt of a verified statement signed by
- 1.16 both parties attesting to the legality of the marriage.
- 1.17 (c) Procedures developed and implemented under this section must be consistent with
- 1.18 Minnesota Statutes, section 517.08, subdivision 1b, except that the requirement that at least
- 1.19 one party appear in person does not apply. The use of electronic signatures shall be consistent
- 1.20 with the requirements of Minnesota Statutes, chapter 325L.
- 1.21 (d) This section expires on ~~January 15~~ May 31, 2021.

2.1 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective retroactively from January 1, 2021.