

This Document can be made available in alternative formats upon request

State of Minnesota
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-EIGHTH SESSION

H. F. No. 2966

03/12/2014 Authored by Kahn
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Civil Law

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to civil law; authorizing marriage solemnization by atheist and humanist
1.3 celebrants; amending Minnesota Statutes 2013 Supplement, sections 517.05;
1.4 517.18, by adding a subdivision.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2013 Supplement, section 517.05, is amended to read:

1.7 **517.05 CREDENTIALS OF MINISTER OR CELEBRANT.**

1.8 Ministers of any religious denomination, or any other celebrant identified in section
1.9 517.18, before they are authorized to solemnize a civil marriage, shall file a copy of their
1.10 credentials of license or ordination or, if their organization or religious denomination
1.11 does not issue credentials, authority from their governing board or the minister's spiritual
1.12 assembly, with the local registrar of a county in this state, who shall record the same
1.13 and give a certificate of filing thereof. The place where the credentials are recorded
1.14 shall be endorsed upon and recorded with each certificate of civil marriage granted by
1.15 a minister or celebrant.

1.16 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2013 Supplement, section 517.18, is amended by adding a
1.17 subdivision to read:

1.18 Subd. 4a. **Atheists and humanists.** Civil marriages may be solemnized by atheist or
1.19 humanist celebrants who have been appointed by the boards of directors of self-identified
1.20 atheist or humanist organizations that sponsor training for such individuals. An atheist
1.21 or humanist group appointing such celebrant must be registered as a nonprofit with
1.22 the Minnesota Office of the Secretary of State and must have tax-exempt status as an
1.23 educational organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.