



House of Commons

NOTICES OF AMENDMENTS

given on

Tuesday 19 March 2013

*For other Amendment(s) see the following page(s) of Supplement to Votes:
953-59*

CONSIDERATION OF BILL

MARRIAGE (SAME SEX COUPLES) BILL

Marriages according to usages of approved organisations

Kate Green
Stephen Williams
Kelvin Hopkins
Dr Julian Huppert
Chris Bryant

NC12

To move the following Clause:—

‘(1) In the Marriage Act 1949, after section 47, insert the following section—

“47A Marriages according to usages of approved organisations

- (1) The Registrar General may by certificate approve organisations to solemnize marriages according to their usages provided that any such organisation—
 - (a) is a registered charity concerned with advancing or practising a religion or belief, including a non-religious belief;
 - (b) does not possess or have the use of any registered place of worship that has been registered for the solemnization of marriage; and
 - (c) appears to the Registrar General to be of good repute.
- (2) In the certificate referred to in subsection (1) the Registrar General shall designate an officer of the organisation (“the principal officer”) to appoint persons for stated periods of time to act as registering officers on behalf of the organisation, and may impose such conditions as seem to him or her to be desirable relative to the conduct of marriages by the organisation and to the safe custody of marriage register books.
- (3) The principal officer shall, within the prescribed time and in the prescribed manner, certify the names and addresses of the persons so appointed to the Registrar General and to the superintendent registrars of

Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Bill, *continued*

the registration districts in which such persons live, together with such other details as the Registrar General shall require.

- (4) A marriage shall not be solemnized according to the usages of an approved organisation until duplicate marriage register books have been supplied by the Registrar General under Part IV of this Act to the registering officers appointed to act on behalf of the organisation.
 - (5) If the Registrar General is not satisfied with respect to any registering officer of the approved organisation that sufficient security exists for the safe custody of marriage register books, he or she may in his or her discretion suspend the appointment of that registering officer.
 - (6) A marriage to which this section applies shall be solemnized with open doors in the presence of either—
 - (a) a registrar of the registration district in which the marriage takes place; or
 - (b) a registering officer appointed under subsection (2) whose name and address have been certified in accordance with subsection (3) and of two witnesses;
 and the persons to be married shall make the declarations and use the form of words set out in subsection (3) or (3A) of section 44.
 - (7) A marriage solemnized according to the usages of an approved organisation shall not be valid unless there is produced to the superintendent registrar, at the time when notice of marriage is given, a certificate purporting to be signed by the principal officer or a registering officer of the approved organisation to the effect that each person giving notice of marriage is either a member of the said organisation or is authorised to be married according to the said usages under or in pursuance of a general rule of the said approved organisation.
 - (8) A certificate under subsection (7) shall be for all purposes conclusive evidence that any person to whom it relates is authorised to be married according to the usages of the said organisation and the entry of the marriage in a marriage register book under Part IV of this Act, or a certified copy thereof made under the said Part IV, shall be conclusive evidence of the production of such a certificate.
 - (9) A copy of any general rule of the said organisation purporting to be signed by the principal officer for the time being of the said organisation shall be admitted as evidence of the general rule in all proceedings touching the validity of any marriage solemnized according to the usages of the said organisation.”.
- (2) Schedule [Consequential amendments—Marriage according to usages of approved organisations] has effect.’.

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Page 3, line 28 [*Clause 2*], after sub-paragraph (i) insert—

‘(iA) section 47A (marriages according to the usages of approved organisations) when the organisation in question is a religious organisation.’.

Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Bill, *continued*

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Page 6, line 29 [*Clause* 5], after ‘solemnized’, insert ‘and includes a religious organisation approved under section 47A(1).’.

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Page 49, line 16 [*Schedule* 7], after ‘celebrated’, insert ‘and includes a religious organisation approved under section 47A(1).’.

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NS1

To move the following Schedule:—

‘CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS—MARRIAGE ACCORDING TO USAGES OF APPROVED ORGANISATIONS

The following amendments are made to the Marriage Act 1949—

- (1) In section 26 (marriages which may be solemnized on authority of superintendent registrar’s certificate) in subsection (1) after paragraph (c) there is inserted—
 “(ca) a marriage conducted under the auspices of an approved organisation;”.
- (2) In section 35 (marriages in registration district in which neither party resides) after “the Society of Friends” there is inserted “or of an approved organisation”.
- (3) In section 43 (appointment of authorised persons) in subsection (3) after “the Society of Friends” there is inserted “or of an organisation authorised by the Registrar General under section 47A”.
- (4) In section 50 (person to whom certificate to be delivered), in subsection (1) after paragraph (d) there is inserted—
 “(da) if the marriage is to be solemnized according to the usages of an approved organisation, a registering officer of that organisation”.
- (5) After section 52, the following section is inserted—

“52A Interpretation

In this Part of this Act “approved organisation” has the meaning given to it in section 67.”.

- (6) In section 53 (persons by whom marriages are to be registered), after paragraph (b) there is inserted—
 “(ba) in the case of a marriage solemnized according to the usages of an approved organisation, a registered officer of that organisation;”.

Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Bill, *continued*

- (7) In section 54 (provision of marriage register books by Registrar General), in subsection (1) after the words “the Society of Friends,” there is inserted “registering officer of every approved organisation”.
- (8) In section 55 (manner of registration of marriages)—
- (a) in subsection (1) after the words “the Society of Friends” there is inserted “or of an approved organisation”; and
 - (b) in subsection (1)(b) after the words “the Society of Friends” there is inserted “or of an approved organisation” and after the words “the said Society” there is inserted “or organisation”.
- (9) In section 57 (quarterly returns to be made to superintendent registrar), in subsection (1) after the words “the Society of Friends” there is inserted “or of an approved organisation”.
- (10) In section 59 (custody of register books) after the words “the Society of Friends” there is inserted “or of an approved organisation”.
- (11) In section 60 (filled register books) in subsection (1), paragraph (b), after the words “registering officer of the Society of Friends” there is inserted “or of an approved organisation”; after the words “members of the Society of Friends” there is inserted “or of the said organisation”, and after the words “the said Society” there is inserted “or organisation”.
- (12) In section 63 (searches in register books) after the words “the Society of Friends” there is inserted “or of an approved organisation”.
- (13) In section 67 (interpretation of Part IV), there are inserted in the list of definitions the following—
- ““approved organisation” means an organisation approved by the Registrar General under section 47A of this Act;” and
 - ““registering officer of an approved organisation” means a person whom the principal officer of the said organisation certifies in writing under his or her hand to the Registrar General to be a registering officer in England or Wales of that organisation;”;
- and in the definition of “superintendent registrar” after paragraph (b) there is inserted—
- “(ba) in the case of a marriage registered by a registering officer of an approved organisation, the superintendent registrar of the registration district which is assigned by the Registrar General to that registering officer;”.
- (14) In section 75 (offences relating to solemnization of marriages) in subsection (1), paragraph (a), after the words “the Society of Friends” there is inserted “or of an approved organisation”; and in subsection (2), paragraph (a), after the words “the Society of Friends” there is inserted “or of an approved organisation.”.
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