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**B I L L**

TO

Make provision for marriages taking place in any Church of England chapel licensed for the solemnization of marriages under sections 20 and 21 of the Marriage Act 1949 to be solemnized according to the rites and ceremonies of Christian denominations other than the Church of England.

**B**E IT ENACTED by the Queen’s most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

**1 Solemnization of marriages in Church of England parish churches and chapels by other denominations**

- (1) A marriage may be solemnized according to the rites and ceremonies of Christian denominations other than the Church of England in any Church of England parish church or chapel licensed for the publication of banns and solemnization of marriages under sections 20 (licensing of chapels for the publication of banns and solemnization of marriages) and 21 (authorising the publication of banns and solemnization of marriages in churches and chapels of extra-parochial places) of the Marriage Act 1949. 5
- (2) Marriages under subsection (1) may only take place by the permission of the incumbent, the Parochial Church Council and the bishop of the diocese, and in the case of a Royal or other peculiar, instead by permission of the Ordinary. 10
- (3) Marriages under subsection (1) may only be solemnised and registered by a minister licensed to perform marriages in a church of another denomination under the provisions of the Marriage Act 1949. 15
- (4) In this Act—  
     “Christian denominations other than the Church of England” means any denominations whose ministers and churches can be licensed for the solemnization of marriage under the Marriage Act 1949;  
     “parish church”, “public chapel” and “incumbent” have the same meaning as in the Marriage Act 1949. 20

**2 Extent, commencement and short title**

- (1) This Act extends to England and Wales only.
- (2) This Act comes into force six months from the day on which it is passed.
- (3) This Act may be cited as the Ecumenical Marriage Act 2017.



# Ecumenical Marriage Bill [HL]

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*Lord Deben*

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