

HOUSE BILL NO. 2742

99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE CURTIS.

6791H.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To repeal section 451.090, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to the protection of vulnerable persons.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Section 451.090, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 451.090, to read as follows:

451.090. 1. No recorder shall, in any event except as herein provided, issue a license authorizing the marriage of any person under ~~[fifteen]~~ **seventeen** years of age; provided, however, that such license may be issued on order of a circuit or associate circuit judge of the county in which the license is applied for, such license being issued only ~~[for good cause shown and by reason of such unusual conditions as to]~~ **after a hearing has been held in which the parties present evidence to the court that would make such marriage advisable. The court, in its order, shall determine that there is no evidence of coercion or abuse of either person entering the marriage.**

2. No recorder shall issue a license authorizing the marriage of any male under the age of eighteen years or of any female under the age of eighteen years, except with the consent of his or her custodial parent or guardian, which consent shall be given at the time, in writing, stating the residence of the person giving such consent, signed and sworn to before an officer authorized to administer oaths. **In no instance shall a license be issued authorizing the marriage of any person twenty-one years of age or older if the other party to the marriage is under seventeen years of age or if either party is under fifteen years of age.**

3. The recorder shall state in every license whether the parties applying for same, one or either or both of them, are of age, or whether the male is under the age of eighteen years or

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

18 the female under the age of eighteen years, and if the male is under the age of eighteen years or
19 the female is under the age of eighteen years, the name of the custodial parent or guardian
20 consenting to such marriage. **Applicants shall provide proof of age to the recorder in the**
21 **form of a certified copy of the applicant's birth certificate, passport, or other government-**
22 **issued identification, which shall be documented by the recorder.**

23 **4. If either applicant is under seventeen years of age, the applicants shall provide**
24 **proof of having attended at least two sessions together with a professional licensed under**
25 **chapter 337 in preparation for petitioning the court for a marriage license. Such proof**
26 **shall be in the form of an affidavit signed by the professional. In making a ruling under**
27 **subsection 1 of this section, the court shall consider the affidavit provided by the applicants**
28 **and any report prepared by the professional.**

29 **5. The department of public safety, in collaboration with the department of**
30 **elementary and secondary education, shall develop a plan to combat sex trafficking and**
31 **educate children about the dangers of abduction and kidnapping. Such plan shall include**
32 **a program to develop a universal safe word for children to use in public places if they are**
33 **in danger of abduction or kidnapping. The department shall disseminate information to**
34 **the public about recognizing the safe word and what to do if a child uses such safe word.**

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