

By: Representative Burnett

To: Judiciary A

HOUSE BILL NO. 709

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 93-1-17, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 AUTHORIZE RETIRED JUDGES OF THE SUPREME COURT, COURT OF APPEALS,  
3 CIRCUIT COURT, CHANCERY COURT OR COUNTY COURT TO SOLEMNIZE  
4 MARRIAGES; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 93-1-17, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
7 amended as follows:

8 93-1-17. Any minister of the gospel ordained according to  
9 the rules of his church or society, in good standing; any Rabbi or  
10 other spiritual leader of any other religious body authorized  
11 under the rules of such religious body to solemnize rites of  
12 matrimony and being in good standing; any judge of the Supreme  
13 Court, Court of Appeals, circuit court, chancery court or county  
14 court; any retired judge of the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals,  
15 circuit court, chancery court or county court may solemnize the  
16 rites of matrimony between any persons anywhere within this state  
17 who shall produce a license granted as herein directed. Justice  
18 court judges and members of the boards of supervisors may likewise  
19 solemnize the rites of matrimony within their respective counties.



20 Any marriages performed by a mayor of a municipality prior to  
21 March 14, 1994, are valid provided such marriages satisfy the  
22 requirements of Section 93-1-18.

23       **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
24 and after July 1, 2023.

