

HB 2742 -- VULNERABLE PERSONS

SPONSOR: Curtis

Currently, a county recorder must issue a license authorizing the marriage of any person under 15 years of age so long as certain requirements are met. This bill increases the age to 17 years and requires the court to hold a hearing, requiring the parties seeking a marriage license to present evidence that the marriage is advisable. A marriage license shall not be issued to any person 21 years of age or older if the other party to the marriage is less than 17 years of age or if either party is under 15 years of age. Applicants are required to provide proof of age documentation.

If either applicant to the marriage is under 17 years, the applicants must provide proof of attending at least two sessions together with a psychologist, professional counselor, or social worker. The court must consider this proof of attendance and any other report prepared by the psychologist, professional counselor, or social worker in determining whether to issue the marriage license.

The Department of Public Safety must develop a plan to combat sex trafficking and educate children about the dangers of abduction and kidnapping. The plan must include a program to develop a universal safe word for children to use in public places if they are in danger of abduction or kidnapping.

This bill is similar to HB 1630 and HB 2742 (2018).