

HCS HBs 1972 & 2366 -- MARRIAGE LICENSES

SPONSOR: DeGroot

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Judiciary by a vote of 15 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 10 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HBs 1972 & 2366.

This bill allows the Recorder of Deeds to accept electronic applications for marriage licenses through an online process. If a recorder uses an online process to accept applications for or to issue marriage licenses and the applicants' identity has not been verified in person, the recorder must have a two-step verification process or a process that independently verifies the identity of the applicants. It is the recorder's responsibility to ensure that any verification process adopted as part of the electronic system verifies the identities of both applicants. The recorder must not accept applications for or issue licenses through this online process unless at least one of the applicants is a resident of the county or city not within a county in which the application was submitted.

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this brings the recorders into the 21st century, specifically the St. Louis City Recorder of Deeds. That office is the only one that handles all sorts of records, and they already process some of them online. This is not a mandate; this would simply give recorders the ability to choose to use it if they want.

Testifying for the bill were Representative DeGroot; Recorders' Association of Missouri; and Michael Butler, Saint Louis Recorder of Deeds.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.