

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1361

Page 1, line 15, after the underscored period insert "The clerk shall prescribe and furnish the form that is to be completed by the person who certifies that the applicant has completed the premarital counseling."

Page 2, replace lines 6 through 17 with:

"counseling. For the purposes of this section, "premarital counseling" means one or more meetings, totaling at least six hours, between two parties who are eligible to enter into a marriage contract and have either made application for a marriage license or intend to apply for a marriage license, and one or more neutral parties, for purposes of discussing the rights, expectations, needs, obligations, and other commitments incident to the marriage contract, including discussion about children, finances, relationships with new family members and friends, time management, goal setting, and communication and conflict resolution skills.

2. In the course of premarital counseling, the parties and the counselor shall evaluate the parties' compatibility as a couple and their commitment to one another.
3. Premarital counseling may be provided by any of the following:
 - a. A member of the clergy;
 - b. Staff of a church, including a church volunteer sponsoring couple, or other religious organization with training in premarital counseling; or
 - c. A trained or certified counselor.
4. The completion of the certificate required under section 14-03-22 by the person performing the counseling constitutes a certification that the parties have been counseled."

Renumber accordingly