

Fifty-fifth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

**SENATE BILL NO. 2230**

Introduced by

Senators Christmann, Wanzek, Watne

Representatives Kerzman, Nelson, Sandvig

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 14-03-01 and 14-03-08 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to the definition of marriage and the recognition of a foreign marriage.

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

4 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 14-03-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
5 amended and reenacted as follows:

6 **14-03-01. What constitutes marriage - Spouse defined.** Marriage is a personal  
7 relation arising out of a civil contract between ~~a male~~ one man and ~~a female~~ one woman to  
8 which the consent of the parties is essential. The marriage relation may be entered into,  
9 maintained, annulled, or dissolved only as provided by law. A spouse refers only to a person of  
10 the opposite sex who is a husband or a wife.

11 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 14-03-08 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
12 amended and reenacted as follows:

13 **14-03-08. Foreign marriages recognized - Exception.** ~~All~~ Except when residents of  
14 this state contract a marriage in another state which is prohibited under the laws of this state, all  
15 marriages contracted outside ~~of~~ this state, which are valid according to the laws of the state or  
16 country where contracted, are valid in this state. ~~This section does not apply when residents of~~  
17 ~~this state contract a marriage in another state which is prohibited under the laws of North~~  
18 ~~Dakota.~~ This section applies only to a marriage contracted in another state or country which is  
19 between one man and one woman as husband and wife.