

The Florida Senate
HOUSE MESSAGE SUMMARY

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Judiciary

[2018s00140.hms]

BILL: CS/CS/SB 140

INTRODUCER: Rules Committee; Judiciary Committee; Senator Benacquisto and others

SUBJECT: Marriage Licenses

DATE: February 28, 2018

I. Amendments Contained in Message:

House Amendment 1 – 923493 (body with title)

II. Summary of Amendments Contained in Message:

House Amendment 1 substantially amends the underlying bill. The underlying Senate Bill prohibits the marriage of all minors by prohibiting a county court judge or clerk of the circuit court from issuing a marriage license to anyone younger than 18 years of age. There are no exceptions.

The House amendment prohibits anyone from marrying who is younger than 16 years of age and limits the circumstances under which 16 and 17 year olds may marry. The amendment requires a county court judge or clerk of the circuit court to issue a marriage license to 16 or 17 year olds, only if:

- One party is no more than 2 years older than the other;
- A licensed physician verifies in writing the existence of pregnancy; and
- The parents or guardian of each minor consents in writing to the marriage.

Written parental consent, however, is not required if both parents of each minor are dead, each minor has been previously married, or each minor is an emancipated minor.