

SENATE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 66
AN ACT

To repeal sections 451.040, 451.080, and 451.090, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof three new sections relating to the age of marriage, with existing penalty provisions.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Sections 451.040, 451.080, and 451.090, RSMo, are repealed and three new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 451.040, 451.080, and 451.090, to read as follows:

451.040. 1. Previous to any marriage in this state, a license for that purpose shall be obtained from the officer authorized to issue the same, and no marriage contracted shall be recognized as valid unless the license has been previously obtained, and unless the marriage is solemnized by a person authorized by law to solemnize marriages.

2. Before applicants for a marriage license shall receive a license, and before the recorder of deeds shall be authorized to issue a license, the parties to the marriage shall present an application for the license, duly executed and signed in the presence of the recorder of deeds or their deputy or electronically through an online process. If an applicant is unable to sign the application in the presence of the recorder of deeds as a result of the applicant's incarceration or because the applicant has been called or ordered to active military duty out of the state or country, the recorder of deeds may issue a license if:

(1) An affidavit or sworn statement is submitted by the incarcerated or military applicant on a form furnished by the recorder of deeds which includes the necessary

21 information for the recorder of deeds to issue a marriage
22 license under this section. The form shall include, but not
23 be limited to, the following:

24 (a) The names of both applicants for the marriage
25 license;

26 (b) The date of birth of the incarcerated or military
27 applicant;

28 (c) An attestation by the incarcerated or military
29 applicant that both applicants are not related;

30 (d) The date the marriage ended if the incarcerated or
31 military applicant was previously married;

32 (e) An attestation signed by the incarcerated or
33 military applicant stating in substantial part that the
34 applicant is unable to appear in the presence of the
35 recorder of deeds as a result of the applicant's
36 incarceration or because the applicant has been called or
37 ordered to active military duty out of the state or country,
38 which will be verified by the professional or official who
39 directs the operation of the jail or prison or the military
40 applicant's military officer, or such professional's or
41 official's designee, and acknowledged by a notary public
42 commissioned by the state of Missouri at the time of
43 verification. However, in the case of an applicant who is
44 called or ordered to active military duty outside Missouri,
45 acknowledgment may be obtained by a notary public who is
46 duly commissioned by a state other than Missouri or by
47 notarial services of a military officer in accordance with
48 the Uniform Code of Military Justice at the time of
49 verification;

50 (2) The completed marriage license application of the
51 incarcerated or military applicant is submitted which
52 includes the applicant's Social Security number; except
53 that, in the event the applicant does not have a Social

54 Security number, a sworn statement by the applicant to that
55 effect; and

56 (3) A copy of a government-issued identification for
57 the incarcerated or military applicant which contains the
58 applicant's photograph. However, in such case the
59 incarcerated applicant does not have such an identification
60 because the jail or prison to which he or she is confined
61 does not issue an identification with a photo his or her
62 notarized application shall satisfy this requirement.

63 3. Each application for a license shall contain the
64 Social Security number of the applicant, provided that the
65 applicant in fact has a Social Security number, or the
66 applicant shall sign a statement provided by the recorder
67 that the applicant does not have a Social Security number.
68 The Social Security number contained in an application for a
69 marriage license shall be exempt from examination and
70 copying pursuant to section 610.024. After the receipt of
71 the application the recorder of deeds shall issue the
72 license, unless one of the parties withdraws the
73 application. The license shall be void after thirty days
74 from the date of issuance.

75 4. Any person violating the provisions of this section
76 shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor.

77 5. Common-law marriages shall be null and void.

78 6. Provided, however, that no marriage shall be deemed
79 or adjudged invalid, nor shall the validity be in any way
80 affected for want of authority in any person so solemnizing
81 the marriage pursuant to section 451.100, if consummated
82 with the full belief on the part of the persons, so married,
83 or either of them, that they were lawfully joined in
84 marriage.

85 7. In the event a recorder of deeds utilizes an online
86 process to accept applications for a marriage license or to

87 issue a marriage license and the applicants' identity has
88 not been verified in person, the recorder of deeds shall
89 have a two-step identity verification process or a process
90 that independently verifies the identity of such
91 applicants. Such process shall be adopted as part of any
92 electronic system for marriage licenses if the applicants do
93 not present themselves to the recorder of deeds or his or
94 her designee in person. It shall be the responsibility of
95 the recorder of deeds to ensure any process adopted to allow
96 electronic application or issuance of a marriage license
97 verifies the identities of both applicants. The recorder of
98 deeds shall not accept applications for or issue marriage
99 licenses through the process provided in this subsection
100 unless [both applicants are at least eighteen years of age
101 and] at least one of the applicants is a resident of the
102 county or city not within a county in which the application
103 was submitted.

451.080. 1. The recorders of the several counties of
2 this state, and the recorder of the city of St. Louis,
3 shall, when applied to by any person legally entitled to a
4 marriage license, issue the same which may be in the
5 following form:

6 State of Missouri)
7)
8 ss.
9)
10 County of _____)

11 This license authorizes any judge, associate
12 circuit judge, licensed or ordained preacher of
13 the gospel, or other person authorized under the
14 laws of this state, to solemnize marriage between
15 A B of _____, county of _____ and state of
16 _____, who is _____ the age of eighteen years,
17 and C D of _____, in the county of _____, state

18 of _____, who is _____ the age of eighteen
19 years.

20 2. [If the man is under eighteen or the woman under
21 eighteen, add the following:

22 The custodial parent or guardian, as the case may
23 be, of the said A B or C D (A B or C D, as the
24 case may require), has given his or her assent to
25 the said marriage.

26 Witness my hand as recorder, with the seal of
27 office hereto affixed, at my office, in _____,
28 the _____ day of _____, 20_____, recorder.

29 3.] On which such license the person solemnizing the
30 marriage shall, within fifteen days after the issuing
31 thereof, make as near as may be the following return, and
32 return such license to the officer issuing the same:

33 State of Missouri)
34)
35 ss.
36)
37 County of _____)

38 This is to certify that the undersigned _____ did
39 at _____, in said county, on the _____ day of
40 _____ A.D. 20_____, unite in marriage the above-
41 named persons.

451.090. 1. No recorder shall issue a license
2 authorizing the marriage of any male or female under
3 [sixteen] eighteen years of age [nor shall a license be
4 issued authorizing the marriage of any male or female twenty-
5 one years of age or older to a male or female under eighteen
6 years of age].

7 2. [No recorder shall issue a license authorizing the
8 marriage of any male or female under the age of eighteen
9 years, except with the consent of his or her custodial
10 parent or guardian, which consent shall be given at the
11 time, in writing, stating the residence of the person giving
12 such consent, signed and sworn to before an officer
13 authorized to administer oaths.

14 3.] The recorder shall state in every license whether
15 the parties applying for [same, one or either or both of
16 them,] such license are of age[, or whether the male is
17 under the age of eighteen years or the female under the age
18 of eighteen years, and if the male is under the age of
19 eighteen years or the female is under the age of eighteen
20 years, the name of the custodial parent or guardian
21 consenting to such marriage]. Applicants shall provide
22 proof of age to the recorder in the form of a certified copy
23 of the applicant's birth certificate, passport, or other
24 government-issued identification, which shall then be
25 documented by the recorder.