

SENATE, No. 2861

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 13, 2022

Sponsored by:

Senator FRED H. MADDEN, JR.

District 4 (Camden and Gloucester)

Senator NELLIE POU

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblywoman GABRIELA M. MOSQUERA

District 4 (Camden and Gloucester)

Assemblywoman LISA SWAIN

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblyman BENJIE E. WIMBERLY

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Zwicker, Assemblyman Mejia, Assemblywoman Jimenez, Assemblyman Caputo, Assemblywoman Tucker, Assemblymen Benson, Sampson, Karabinchak, Assemblywoman Lampitt, Assemblyman Atkins, Assemblywoman Carter, Assemblyman Schaer, Assemblywoman Murphy, Assemblymen Spearman, Stanley, Verrelli, Assemblywoman Park, Assemblyman Freiman, Assemblywomen McKnight, Jasey, Chaparro, Assemblymen Mukherji, Danielsen, Moriarty, Assemblywoman Jaffer, Assemblymen Tully, DeAngelo, Dancer, Assemblywoman Haider, Assemblymen McKeon, Moen, Coughlin, Egan and Assemblywoman Timberlake

SYNOPSIS

Waives fees for marriage and civil union licenses in Fiscal Year 2023; appropriates \$2 million.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/29/2022)

1 AN ACT concerning fees for issuing marriage and civil union
2 licenses and makes an appropriation

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

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7 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of R.S.37:1-12, section 1 of
8 P.L.1981, c.382 (C.37:1-12.1), or any other law to the contrary, for
9 the period beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023, a
10 licensing officer shall not charge or collect a fee for issuing a
11 marriage or civil union license from a marriage license or civil
12 union license applicant.

13

14 2. The State shall reimburse a municipality for the fees
15 authorized by R.S.37:1-12 which have been suspended by the
16 provisions of section 1 of this act. To assist in the reimbursements
17 authorized by this section, the Office of Vital Statistics and Registry
18 in the Department of Health shall provide to the Division of Local
19 Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs
20 marriage certificates submitted to the office by municipalities.

21

22 3. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
23 Department of the Treasury an amount not to exceed \$2,000,000,
24 subject to the approval of the Director of the Division of Budget
25 and Accounting, for the purpose of reimbursing municipalities
26 pursuant to section 2 of this act.

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28 4. This act shall take effect on July 1, 2022 and shall expire on
29 June 30, 2023.

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STATEMENT

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34 This bill waives the fees charged by municipalities to issue
35 marriage and civil union licenses for the State Fiscal Year 2023,
36 which runs from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

37 Under current law, municipal licensing officers collect a \$3 fee
38 for issuing a marriage or civil union license. In addition to this fee,
39 these officers also are required to collect a \$25 fee for each license,
40 to be forwarded to the Department of Human Services for the
41 purpose of providing shelter-related services to victims of domestic
42 violence. Under the bill, both of these fees would be waived for
43 one year. The bill appropriates \$2 million to reimburse
44 municipalities for the \$3 fee.

45 The Governor's Fiscal Year 2023 budget recommendations
46 include enacting legislation to waive marriage and civil union
47 license fees in Fiscal Year 2023.