

ENROLLED HOUSE
BILL NO. 2882

By: Steele, Nance, Peterson
(Pam) and Wesselhoft of the
House

and

Laster of the Senate

An Act relating to marriage; amending 43 O.S. 2001, Section 5.1, which relates to premarital counseling; expanding authorization for conducting premarital counseling programs; adding time requirement for program; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 43 O.S. 2001, Section 5.1, is amended to read as follows:

Section 5.1 A. The clerk of the district court shall reduce the fee for a marriage license as prescribed by Section 31 of Title 28 of the Oklahoma Statutes to persons who have successfully completed a premarital counseling program meeting the conditions specified by this section.

B. 1. A premarital counseling program shall be conducted by a health professional ~~or~~, an official representative of a religious institution, or a person trained by the principal authors or duly authorized agents of the principal authors of nationally recognized marriage education curriculum including, but not limited to, Prevention & Relationship Enhancement Program (PREP). Upon successful completion of the program, the counseling program provider shall issue to the persons a certificate signed by the instructor of the counseling program. The certificate shall state that the named persons have successfully completed the premarital counseling requirements. A minimum of four (4) hours of education or counseling shall be necessary for successful completion of the marriage education curriculum.

2. For purposes of this subsection, the term "health professional" means a person licensed or certified by this state to practice psychiatry or psychology; a licensed social worker with experience in marriage counseling; a licensed marital and family therapist; or a licensed professional counselor.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2006.

Passed the House of Representatives the 19th day of May, 2006.

Presiding Officer of the House of
Representatives

Passed the Senate the 22nd day of May, 2006.

Presiding Officer of the Senate