

CHAPTER NO. 183

SENATE BILL NO. 331
INTRODUCED BY DOVER, REGAN

IN THE SENATE

February 1, 1979	Introduced and referred to Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Safety.
February 14, 1979	Committee recommend bill do pass. Report adopted.
February 15, 1979	Printed and placed on members' desks.
February 16, 1979	Second reading, do pass.
February 17, 1979	Considered correctly engrossed.
February 19, 1979	Third reading, passed. Transmitted to second house.

IN THE HOUSE

February 20, 1979	Introduced and referred to Committee on Human Services.
March 5, 1979	Intent statement attached. Committee recommend bill be concurred in. Report adopted.
March 6, 1979	Second reading, concurred in.
March 8, 1979	Third reading, concurred in.

IN THE SENATE

March 9, 1979	Returned from second house with Intent statement. Concurred in. Sent to enrolling. Reported correctly enrolled.
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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

STATEMENT OF INTENT-SB 331

It is the purpose of SB 331 to require minors to participate in premarital counseling before a marriage license and a marriage certificate form may be issued by the district court. It is the intent of the legislature that fees may not be charged for required premarital counseling. It is the intent of the legislature that the district court designate counselors for this purpose from existing resources within the community that traditionally provide counseling services such as members of the clergy, physicians, school guidance counselors, or any other resource within the community with a history of providing reputable counseling services.

1 *Donna* BILL NO. 331
 2 INTRODUCED BY *Donna* _____
 3

4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO AMEND THE UNIFORM
 5 MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE ACT TO REQUIRE PREMARITAL COUNSELING
 6 FOR MINORS; AMENDING SECTION 40-1-213, MCA."
 7

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

9 Section 1. Section 40-1-213, MCA, is amended to read:

10 "40-1-213. Judicial approval. (1) The district court
 11 may order the clerk of the district court to issue a
 12 marriage license and a marriage certificate form to a party
 13 aged 16 or 17 years who has no parent capable of consenting
 14 to his marriage or has the consent of both parents or of the
 15 parent having the actual care, custody, and control to his
 16 marriage, if capable of giving consent, or of his guardian.
 17 The court may must require both parties to participate in a
 18 reasonable period of marriage counseling involving at least
 19 two separate counseling sessions not less than 10 days apart
 20 with a designated counselor as a condition of the order for
 21 issuance of a marriage license and a marriage certificate
 22 form under this section.

23 (2) A marriage license and a marriage certificate form
 24 may be issued under this section only if the court finds
 25 that the underaged party is capable of assuming the

1 responsibilities of marriage and the marriage will serve his
 2 best interest. Pregnancy alone does not establish that the
 3 best interest of the party will be served.

4 (3) The district court shall authorize performance of
 5 a marriage by proxy upon the showing required by the
 6 provisions on solemnization."

-End-

-2- *SB 331*
 INTRODUCED BILL

1 INTRODUCED BY Sen. [Signature] BILL NO. 331
2 [Signature]

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First adopted by the HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES on February 28, 1979.

SB 331

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