

House Bill 4127

Sponsored by Representatives VEGA PEDERSON, WILLIAMSON; Representatives BARNHART, DOHERTY, EVANS, KENY-GUYER, MCLAIN, NOSSE, PARRISH, PILUSO, REARDON, TAYLOR, WITT, Senator ROSENBAUM (Presession filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Makes statutory changes to achieve gender neutral language with respect to individuals who are in marital relationship.

Establishes state policy that same privileges, immunities, rights, benefits and responsibilities granted or imposed by law apply on equivalent terms to married individuals of different sex or same sex.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to gender neutrality in laws; creating new provisions; amending ORS 40.135 and 40.255; and
3 declaring an emergency.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 40.255 is amended to read:

6 40.255. (1) As used in this section, unless the context requires otherwise:

7 (a) "Confidential communication" means a communication by a spouse to the other spouse and
8 not intended to be disclosed to any other person.

9 (b) "Marriage" means a marital relationship between [*husband and wife*] **two individuals**, leg-
10 gally recognized under the laws of this state.

11 (c) "**Spouse**" means an individual in a marriage with another individual.

12 (2) In any civil or criminal action, a spouse has a privilege to refuse to disclose and to prevent
13 the other spouse from disclosing any confidential communication made by one spouse to the other
14 during the marriage. The privilege created by this subsection may be claimed by either spouse. The
15 authority of the spouse to claim the privilege and the claiming of the privilege is presumed in the
16 absence of evidence to the contrary.

17 (3) In any criminal proceeding, neither spouse, during the marriage, shall be examined adversely
18 against the other as to any other matter occurring during the marriage unless the spouse called as
19 a witness consents to testify.

20 (4) There is no privilege under this section:

21 (a) In all criminal actions in which one spouse is charged with bigamy or with an offense or
22 attempted offense against the person or property of the other spouse or of a child of either, or with
23 an offense against the person or property of a third person committed in the course of committing
24 or attempting to commit an offense against the other spouse;

25 (b) As to matters occurring prior to the marriage; or

26 (c) In any civil action where the spouses are adverse parties.

27 **SECTION 2.** ORS 40.135 is amended to read:

28 40.135. (1) The following are presumptions:

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

- 1 (a) A person intends the ordinary consequences of a voluntary act.
- 2 (b) A person takes ordinary care of the person's own concerns.
- 3 (c) Evidence willfully suppressed would be adverse to the party suppressing it.
- 4 (d) Money paid by one to another was due to the latter.
- 5 (e) A thing delivered by one to another belonged to the latter.
- 6 (f) An obligation delivered to the debtor has been paid.
- 7 (g) A person is the owner of property from exercising acts of ownership over it or from common
- 8 reputation of the ownership of the person.
- 9 (h) A person in possession of an order on that person, for the payment of money or the delivery
- 10 of a thing, has paid the money or delivered the thing accordingly.
- 11 (i) A person acting in a public office was regularly appointed to it.
- 12 (j) Official duty has been regularly performed.
- 13 (k) A court, or judge acting as such, whether in this state or any other state or country, was
- 14 acting in the lawful exercise of the jurisdiction of the court.
- 15 (L) Private transactions have been fair and regular.
- 16 (m) The ordinary course of business has been followed.
- 17 (n) A promissory note or bill of exchange was given or indorsed for a sufficient consideration.
- 18 (o) An indorsement of a negotiable promissory note, or bill of exchange, was made at the time
- 19 and place of making the note or bill.
- 20 (p) A writing is truly dated.
- 21 (q) A letter duly directed and mailed was received in the regular course of the mail.
- 22 (r) A person is the same person if the name is identical.
- 23 (s) A person not heard from in seven years is dead.
- 24 (t) Persons acting as copartners have entered into a contract of copartnership.
- 25 (u) [*A man and woman*] **Two individuals** deporting themselves as [*husband and wife*] **legally**
- 26 **married to each other** have entered into a lawful contract of marriage.
- 27 (v) A child born in lawful wedlock is legitimate.
- 28 (w) A thing once proved to exist continues as long as is usual with things of that nature.
- 29 (x) The law has been obeyed.
- 30 (y) An uninterrupted adverse possession of real property for 20 years or more has been held
- 31 pursuant to a written conveyance.
- 32 (z) A trustee or other person whose duty it was to convey real property to a particular person
- 33 has actually conveyed it to the person, when such presumption is necessary to perfect the title of
- 34 the person or the person's successor in interest.
- 35 (2) A statute providing that a fact or a group of facts is prima facie evidence of another fact
- 36 establishes a presumption within the meaning of this section.

37 **SECTION 3. It is the policy of this state that:**

- 38 (1) **Any privilege, immunity, right or benefit granted by statute, administrative or court**
- 39 **rule, policy, common law or any other law to an individual because the individual is or was**
- 40 **married to an individual of a different sex, is granted on equivalent terms, substantive and**
- 41 **procedural, to an individual who is or was married to an individual of the same sex.**
- 42 (2) **Any responsibility imposed by statute, administrative or court rule, policy, common**
- 43 **law or any other law on an individual because the individual is or was married to an indi-**
- 44 **vidual of a different sex, is imposed on equivalent terms, substantive and procedural, to an**
- 45 **individual who is or was married to an individual of the same sex.**

