

A RESOLUTION

25-349

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

November 7, 2023

To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to amend An Act To establish a code of law for the District of Columbia to authorize the Mayor to issue marriage licenses and authorize temporary marriage officiants during a period of time when the Clerk of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia is not issuing marriage licenses because of a federal government shutdown.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Let Our Vows Endure (LOVE) Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2023”.

Sec. 2. (a) Under current law, marriage licenses are issued by the Clerk of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia (“Clerk”).

(b) During a federal government shutdown, the Clerk does not issue marriage licenses because the issuance of marriage licenses is considered a non-essential function of the Superior Court.

(c) In such circumstances, District residents and others celebrating their marriages in the District are unable to obtain marriage licenses.

(d) The inability of District residents and others celebrating their marriages in the District to obtain a marriage license can be highly disruptive to personal lives, particularly where a marriage has been planned to occur soon.

(e) Given the current potential for a federal government shutdown, it is imperative that District law be amended to enable the Mayor to issue marriage licenses during a federal government shutdown so that District residents and others celebrating their marriages in the District may legally solemnize their marriages at the time of their choosing.

Sec. 3. The Council determines that the circumstances enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the Let Our Vows Endure (LOVE) Emergency Amendment Act of 2023 be adopted after a single reading.

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.