

State of New Hampshire

HOUSE RECORD

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No. 41A

Contains: Committee of Conference Statement.

ADDENDUM TO HOUSE CALENDAR NO. 41

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3

COMMITTEE OF CONFERENCE STATEMENT

HB 73, relative to the solemnization of marriage.

The House conferees agreed to concur with the Senate version of HB 73, with two changes, to which the Senate conferees assented. First, introductory language was added to RSA 457:37 as follows:

“Each religious organization, association, or society has exclusive control over its own religious doctrine, teachings and beliefs regarding who may marry within their faith.” This language affirms the rights of all religious organizations to act in accordance with their doctrines, teachings and beliefs. At the same time, existing antidiscrimination protections are preserved. The committee also made a technical correction to RSA 457:37 IV with respect to fraternal organizations, changing “operating for charitable and educational purposes” to “operating for charitable or educational purposes” so as to better track language in the existing statute.

Rep. Gary B. Richardson