

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 43

Session of  
1999

INTRODUCED BY MAYERNIK, FLICK, SEYFERT, GIGLIOTTI AND  
BENNINGHOFF, JANUARY 20, 1999

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, JANUARY 20, 1999

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 23 (Domestic Relations) of the Pennsylvania  
2 Consolidated Statutes, further providing for common law  
3 marriage.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Section 1103 of Title 23 of the Pennsylvania  
7 Consolidated Statutes is amended to read:

8 § 1103. Common-law marriage.

9 (a) Not valid.--This part [shall not be construed to change  
10 the existing law with regard to common-law] constitutes the sole  
11 legal method for contracting marriage in this Commonwealth.  
12 Common-law marriage is not recognized as valid in this  
13 Commonwealth.

14 (b) Other jurisdictions.--Notwithstanding subsection (a), if  
15 a right, obligation or liability under the laws of this  
16 Commonwealth depends upon whether a common-law marriage has been  
17 contracted in another jurisdiction, the law of that jurisdiction  
18 shall apply to the determination of whether the common-law

1 marriage has been contracted.

2       Section 2. The amendment of 23 Pa.C.S. § 1103 shall not  
3 apply to a common-law marriage which is valid under the laws of  
4 this Commonwealth in effect on the effective date of this act.

5       Section 3. This act shall take effect in one year.