

[AS INTRODUCED]

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# B I L L

TO

Amend the Marriage Act 1949 to create an offence of purporting to solemnize an unregistered marriage.

**B**E IT ENACTED by the Queen’s most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

## **1 Amendments to the Marriage Act 1949**

- (1) The Marriage Act 1949 is amended as follows.
- (2) In section 75 (offences relating to solemnization of marriages), after subsection (2A) insert —

“(2B) Any person who knowingly and wilfully purports to solemnize a marriage (not being a marriage according to the rites of the Church of England, a marriage according to the usages of the Society of Friends or a marriage between two persons professing the Jewish religion according to the usages of the Jews) of two persons whose marriage has not been registered, and is not registered in the course of the solemnization, commits an offence punishable on summary conviction by a fine.”

## **2 Extent, commencement and short title**

- (1) This Act extends to England and Wales only.
- (2) This Act comes into force at the end of the period of six months beginning on the day on which it is passed.
- (3) This Act may be cited as the Marriage Act 1949 (Amendment) Act 2021.

# Marriage Act 1949 (Amendment) Bill [HL]

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*Baroness Cox*

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