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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-SIXTH SESSION

HOUSE FILE NO. 1655

March 12, 2009
Authored by Mullery
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Civil Justice

A bill for an act

relating to marriage; providing for a marriage evaluation study group.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. **MARRIAGE EVALUATION STUDY GROUP.**

(a) The speaker of the house and majority leader of the senate shall convene a study group to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the institution of marriage in Minnesota as it affects the potential for discrimination. The study group may include representatives of the Minnesota State Bar Association, family law attorneys, marriage and family therapists, benefit and tax experts, and other interested parties. The group must review all existing state and federal laws that are directly impacted by marriage or otherwise affect the social or economic status of a married couple, and determine the extent to which structural barriers exist that negatively impact single people, same-sex couples, and cohabitating couples who are not in a marriage relationship. The group must also study laws that provide benefits or tax advantages solely on the basis of having a minor child in the home.

(b) The study group must submit a report with its findings, plus recommendations for removing disparities in treatment between married couples and nonmarried couples or individuals, to the chairs and lead minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over marriage issues no later than February 15, 2011.