STATE OF NEW YORK

5487

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 21, 2025

Introduced by Sen. COMRIE -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Transportation

AN ACT to amend the vehicle and traffic law, in relation to allowing valid certificates of marriage from foreign governments and religious institutions as acceptable documentation to change a name on the driver's license or non-driver identification card

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Section 502 of the vehicle and traffic law is amended by adding a new subdivision 1-a to read as follows:

1-a. In addition to any other documentation acceptable to the commissioner for the purposes of changing a person's name on a driver's license pursuant to subdivision one of this section, the commissioner may accept a valid certificate of marriage from the government of a foreign country or from a bona fide religious institution that issues certificates of marriage in a foreign country.

§ 2. Section 502 of the vehicle and traffic law is amended by adding a new subdivision 3-a to read as follows:

3-a. In addition to any other documentation acceptable to the commissioner for the purposes of changing a person's name on a learner's permit pursuant to subdivisions two and three of this section, the commissioner may accept a valid certificate of marriage from the government of a foreign country or from a bona fide religious institution that issues certificates of marriage in a foreign country.

§ 3. Section 490 of the vehicle and traffic law is amended by adding a new subdivision 2-a to read as follows:

2-a. In addition to any other documentation acceptable to the commissioner for purposes of changing a person's name on an identification card, the commissioner may accept a valid certificate of marriage from the government of a foreign country or from a bona fide religious institution that issues certificates of marriage in a foreign country.

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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§ 4. This act shall take effect on the sixtieth day after it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such date.