

Revised Statutes of 1846 (EXCERPT)
Chapter 83. Of marriage and the solemnization thereof.

551.1 Marriage between individuals of same sex as invalid contract.

Sec. 1. Marriage is inherently a unique relationship between a man and a woman. As a matter of public policy, this state has a special interest in encouraging, supporting, and protecting that unique relationship in order to promote, among other goals, the stability and welfare of society and its children. A marriage contracted between individuals of the same sex is invalid in this state.

History: Add. 1996, Act 324, Imd. Eff. June 26, 1996.

Compiler's note: Former § 551.1, which pertained to allowable age for contracting marriage, was repealed by Act 37 of 1951, Eff. Sept. 28, 1951.

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551.2 Marriage as civil contract; consent; license; solemnization.

Sec. 2. So far as its validity in law is concerned, marriage is a civil contract between a man and a woman, to which the consent of parties capable in law of contracting is essential. Consent alone is not enough to effectuate a legal marriage on and after January 1, 1957. Consent shall be followed by obtaining a license as required by section 1 of Act No. 128 of the Public Acts of 1887, being section 551.101 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, or as provided for by section 1 of Act No. 180 of the Public Acts of 1897, being section 551.201 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, and solemnization as authorized by sections 7 to 18 of this chapter.

History: R.S. 1846, Ch. 83;—CL 1857, 3205;—CL 1871, 4720;—How. 6210;—CL 1897, 8589;—CL 1915, 11363;—CL 1929, 12691;—CL 1948, 551.2;—Am. 1956, Act 44, Eff. Aug. 11, 1956;—Am. 1996, Act 324, Imd. Eff. June 26, 1996.

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551.3 Incapacity; persons man prohibited from marrying.

Sec. 3. A man shall not marry his mother, sister, grandmother, daughter, granddaughter, stepmother, grandfather's wife, son's wife, grandson's wife, wife's mother, wife's grandmother, wife's daughter, wife's granddaughter, brother's daughter, sister's daughter, father's sister, mother's sister, or cousin of the first degree, or another man.

History: R.S. 1846, Ch. 83;—CL 1857, 3206;—CL 1871, 4721;—How. 6211;—CL 1897, 8590;—Am. 1903, Act 257, Eff. Sept. 17, 1903;—CL 1915, 11364;—CL 1929, 12692;—CL 1948, 551.3;—Am. 1996, Act 324, Imd. Eff. June 26, 1996.

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551.4 Incapacity; persons woman prohibited from marrying.

Sec. 4. A woman shall not marry her father, brother, grandfather, son, grandson, stepfather, grandmother's husband, daughter's husband, granddaughter's husband, husband's father, husband's grandfather, husband's son, husband's grandson, brother's son, sister's son, father's brother, mother's brother, or cousin of the first degree, or another woman.

History: R.S. 1846, Ch. 83;—CL 1857, 3207;—CL 1871, 4722;—How. 6212;—CL 1897, 8591;—Am. 1903, Act 257, Eff. Sept. 17, 1903;—CL 1915, 11365;—CL 1929, 12693;—CL 1948, 551.4;—Am. 1996, Act 324, Imd. Eff. June 26, 1996.

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551.5 Bigamy prohibited.

Sec. 5. No marriage shall be contracted whilst either of the parties has a former wife or husband living, unless the marriage with such former wife or husband, shall have been dissolved.

History: R.S. 1846, Ch. 83;—CL 1857, 3208;—CL 1871, 4723;—How. 6213;—CL 1897, 8592;—CL 1915, 11366;—CL 1929, 12694;—CL 1948, 551.5.

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551.6 Repealed. 2001, Act 9, Imd. Eff. May 29, 2001.

Compiler's note: The repealed section pertained to prohibition of certain marriages.

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