AN ACT concerning marriage; relating to the recognition of marriages;
amending K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 23-2501, 23-2504 and 23-2508 and
repealing the existing sections.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:
Section 1. K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 23-2501 is hereby amended to read as
follows: 23-2501. The marriage contract is to be considered in law as a
civil contract between two parties who are of opposite sex. All other
marriages are declared to be contrary to the public policy of this state and
are void. The consent of the parties is essential. The marriage ceremony
may be regarded either as a civil ceremony or as a religious sacrament, but
the marriage relation shall only be entered into, maintained or abrogated as
provided by law.

Sec. 2. K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 23-2504 is hereby amended to read as
follows: 23-2504. (a) Marriage may be validly solemnized and contracted
in this state, after a license has been issued for the marriage, in the
following manner: By the mutual declarations of the two parties to be
joined in marriage, made before an authorized officiating person and in the
presence of at least two competent witnesses over 18 years of age, other
than the officiating person, that they take each other as husband and wife
desire to be married.

(b) The following are authorized to be officiating persons:
(1) Any currently ordained clergyman or religious authority of any
religious denomination or society;
(2) any licentiate of a denominational body or an appointee of any
bishop serving as the regular clergyman of any church of the denomination
to which the licentiate or appointee belongs, if not restrained from so
doing by the discipline of that church or denomination;
(3) any judge or justice of a court of record;
(4) any municipal judge of a city of this state; and
(5) any retired judge or justice of a court of record.

(c) The two parties themselves, by mutual declarations that they take
each other as husband and wife desire to be married, in accordance with
the customs, rules and regulations of any religious society, denomination
or sect to which either of the parties belong, may be married without an
authorized officiating person.
Sec. 3. K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 23-2508 is hereby amended to read as follows: 23-2508. All marriages contracted without this state, which that would be valid by the laws of the country in which the same were contracted, shall be valid in all courts and places in this state. It is the strong public policy of this state only to recognize as valid marriages from other states that are between a man and a woman.

Sec. 4. K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 23-2501, 23-2504 and 23-2508 are hereby repealed.

Sec. 5. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.