



2025-2026 General Assembly

HOUSE BILL 377: 2026 Court Changes, Sec. 5: Amend Default Judgment Provision in Divorce Proceedings

Analysis of: House Bill 377 (Ratified) , Sec. 5

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Prepared by: Legislative Analysis
Division Staff

Section 5 of House Bill 377 would have clarified that the clerk of superior court can enter judgment, upon request of a plaintiff, in cases where a plaintiff's only claim against the defendant is for absolute divorce, or absolute divorce and resumption of a former name, when the defendant failed to appear.

House Bill 377 was ratified by the General Assembly on August 6, 2026, and vetoed by the Governor. House Bill 377 is not current law. If the General Assembly overrides the veto, Section 5 of House Bill 377 would become effective when it becomes law and would apply to actions for absolute divorce filed or pending on or after that date.

Kara McCraw
Director



Legislative Analysis
Division
919-733-2578