



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

Date: August 17, 2026
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 on August 17, 2026.

Kara McCraw
Director



Legislative Analysis
Division
919-733-2578

This bill analysis was prepared by the nonpartisan legislative staff for the use of legislators in their deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.