

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass and Be Placed on the Consent Calendar
Vote:	9 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Barker, Bonamici, Cameron, Flores, Komp, Krieger, Read, Whisnant, Macpherson
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Matt Kalmanson, Counsel
Meeting Dates:	3/6

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Modifies statutes that require parties to use statutory forms to request a hearing and seek relief in child custody, marriage dissolution, and familial abuse cases. Repeals provisions that contain the statutory forms. Requires the State Court Administrator to create forms and informational brochures that comply with the statute. Requires the Administrator to create a form allowing a party to seek a waiver or deferral of fees for the summary dissolution of a marriage. Requires a party who petitions a court for a summary dissolution to serve the petition and a summons on the spouse, and requires the spouse to file a written answer within 30 days. Allows a court to find the spouse in default, enter a judgment for summary dissolution, and award cost if the spouse fails to answer the petition.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Legislative Counsel's recommendation that statutory forms be removed
- Availability of forms
- Need for frequent amendments to statutory forms

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: There are several domestic relations statutes that contain forms that parties must use to request a hearing and seek relief. SB 269 repeals the provisions that contain these forms, and requires the Administrator to create the requisite forms. The intent of SB 269 is to allow the Judicial Department to update, simplify, and easily correct court-provided forms, and make them readily available on the Internet.