

**HB 2734 -A8 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Senate Committee On Judiciary**

---

**Prepared By:** Josh Nasbe, Counsel

**Meeting Dates:** 5/16

---

**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Provides that one spouse may appear on behalf of both spouses in small claims mediation or litigation conducted in circuit court. Requires written consent of other spouse or declaration made under penalty of perjury by appearing spouse.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

-A8 Applies bill to small claims proceedings conducted in justice court.

**BACKGROUND:**

Small claims cases are designed to handle civil cases involving relatively small dollar amounts. The goal of small claims departments is to handle these cases informally, while resolving cases promptly and economically. A civil case must be filed in the small claims department if the damages sought do not exceed \$750 and may be filed in the small claims department if the damages sought do not exceed \$10,000.