

Senate Study Bill 1052

Bill Text

PAG LIN

1 1 Section 1. Section [598.19A](#), subsections 1 and 3, Code
1 2 2001, are amended to read as follows:
1 3 1. The court shall order the parties to any action which
1 4 involves the issues of child custody or visitation to
1 5 participate in a court-approved course to educate and
1 6 sensitize the parties to the needs of any child or party
1 7 during and subsequent to the proceeding within forty-five days
1 8 of the service of notice and petition for the action or within
1 9 forty-five days of the service of notice and application for
1 10 modification of an order. Participation in the course may be
1 11 waived or delayed by the court for good cause including, but
1 12 not limited to, a default by any of the parties or a showing
1 13 that the parties have previously participated in a court-
1 14 approved course or its equivalent. Participation in the
1 15 course is not required if the proceeding involves termination
1 16 of parental rights of any of the parties. A final decree
1 17 shall not be granted or a final order shall not be entered
1 18 until the parties have complied with this section, unless
1 19 participation in the course is waived or delayed for good
1 20 cause or is otherwise not required under this subsection.
1 21 3. Each party shall submit certification of completion of
1 22 the course to the court prior to the granting of a final
1 23 decree or the entry of an order, unless participation in the
1 24 course is waived or delayed for good cause or is otherwise not
1 25 required under subsection 1.

1 26 EXPLANATION

1 27 This bill provides that with regard to the course that is
1 28 required to be completed by parties to an action which
1 29 involves issues of child custody or visitation, if
1 30 participation in the course is waived or extended for good
1 31 cause or is otherwise not required, the court may grant a
1 32 final dissolution of marriage decree or enter a final custody
1 33 order even though the parties have not completed the course.

1 34 The bill also provides that the parties are exempt from
1 35 providing a certificate of completion of such a course if
2 1 participation in the course is waived or extended for good
2 2 cause or is otherwise not required, thereby allowing for the
2 3 granting of a final decree or the entering of a final order
2 4 notwithstanding participation in the course.

2 5 LSB 1424XC 79

2 6 pf/pj/5