



2014 Legislation Protecting Domestic Abuse Victims

SB 291 (HB 748) – Amends civil proceedings for domestic abuse victims

- Exemplary damages may be awarded in domestic abuse lawsuits resulting in serious physical injury or severe emotional distress
- Court costs, fees, and other sanctions shall be awarded in frivolous lawsuits

SB 292 (HB 749) – Amends divorce proceedings for domestic abuse victims

- No divorce waiting period for victims of domestic or sexual abuse
- Minimum 180 day interim spousal support following “immediate” divorce judgment
- Domestic abuse a factor to be considered in awarding final support
- Criminal conviction or optional domestic abuse expert evaluation to determine domestic abuse
- Optional lump sum final support payment to minimize post-divorce contact
- Final spousal support to victim may exceed 1/3 abuser’s net income

HB 747 (SB 451) – Amends the crime of Domestic Abuse Battery

- Domestic Abuse Aggravated Assault becomes a crime of violence
- No release on recognizance for Violation of Protective Order
- Second Domestic Abuse Battery conviction is a felony
- Domestic abuse intervention program to be court monitored and conducted by domestic abuse specialists

HB 750 (SB 529) – Amends protection orders

- Expedites transmission of protective orders to state registry and local law enforcement
- Law enforcement must issue summons to person in violation of a protective order
- Presumption that person subject to protective order is predominant aggressor

HB 753 – Restricts abusers’ access to firearms

- Prohibits those convicted of domestic abuse from possessing a weapon for 10 years after conviction
- Prohibits offenders from possessing a firearm for the duration of a protective order issued after a full hearing
- Does not give law enforcement a directive to seize weapons, but if an offender has a weapon they could be charged with a felony at the discretion of law enforcement