



House of Representatives *State of Utah*

UTAH STATE CAPITOL COMPLEX • 350 STATE CAPITOL
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February 1, 2012

Madam Speaker:

The Health and Human Services Committee reports a favorable recommendation on **H.B. 290**, DIVORCE ORIENTATION CLASS, by Representative J. Nielson, with the following amendments:

1. *Page 1, Lines 12 through 16:*

- 12 This bill:
- 13 ▶ requires a prospective petitioner for divorce to complete the mandatory divorce
- 14 orientation course before filing a petition for divorce;
- ▶ **provides an exception for a victim of domestic violence;**
- 15 ▶ requires the respondent to complete the mandatory divorce orientation course
- within
- 16 30 days of receipt of a petition for divorce;

2. *Page 1, Lines 12 through 19:*

- 12 This bill:
- *** *Some lines not shown* ***
- ▶ **waives the requirement for a petitioner or respondent who has previously**
- taken the class;** and
- 19 ▶ makes technical corrections.

3. *Page 2, Lines 40 through 41:*

- 40 (2) A prospective petitioner shall [~~attend~~] complete a divorce orientation course [~~no~~
- 41 ~~more than 60 days after~~] before filing a petition for divorce.

- (3) The prefiling completion requirement shall be waived for a victim of**
- domestic violence who provides:**
- (a) a valid protective order or its equivalent from any jurisdiction;**
- (b) a police report that indicates domestic violence has occurred against the**
- respondent by a spouse; or**
- (c) a letter from a domestic violence shelter stating that the petitioner is fleeing**
- domestic violence.**
- (4) A petitioner who files for divorce under Subsection (3) shall be required to**

Bill Number



HB0290

Action Class



H

Action Code



HCRAMD

complete the course within 30 days after filing for divorce.

* * * *Some lines not shown* * * *

1. *Page 2, Lines 42 through 44:*

42 (3) The respondent shall [~~attend~~] complete the divorce orientation course [~~no more~~
43 ~~than~~] within 30 days [~~after~~] of being served with a petition for divorce.

(4) A petitioner or respondent who has taken the class is not required to take the class again unless more than 18 months has passed since completion of the class. The petitioner or respondent shall provide documentation showing class completion at the time of filing.

44 {~~(4)~~} **(5)** The clerk of the court shall provide notice to a petitioner of the requirement for the

* * * *Some lines not shown* * * *

2. *Page 3, Lines 82 through 83:*

82 [~~(12)~~] **(10)** It shall be an affirmative defense in all divorce actions that the divorce
83 orientation requirement was not complied with **by the respondent**, and the action may not continue until a party

Renumber the remaining subsections accordingly

Respectfully,

Paul Ray
Committee Chair

Voting: 5-3-1

3 HB0290.HC1.WPD 2/1/12 2:41 pm /MDA ECM/JDH

Bill Number



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