## HOUSE BILL NO. 752

# INTRODUCED BY TOOLE, MEASURE, BRADLEY, MERCER

## IN THE HOUSE

FEBRUARY 12, 1991	INTRODUCED AND REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY.
	FIRST READING.
MARCH 15, 1991	COMMITTEE RECOMMEND BILL DO PASS AS AMENDED. REPORT ADOPTED.
MARCH 16, 1991	PRINTING REPORT.
MARCH 18, 1991	SECOND READING, DO PASS.
MARCH 19, 1991	ENGROSSING REPORT.
MARCH 20, 1991	THIRD READING, PASSED. AYES, 88; NOES, 10.
	TRANSMITTED TO SENATE.
II	N THE SENATE
MARCH 20, 1991	INTRODUCED AND REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY.
	FIRST READING.
APRIL 16, 1991	COMMITTEE RECOMMEND BILL BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED. REPORT ADOPTED.
APRIL 17, 1991	SECOND READING, CONCURRED IN.
APRIL 18, 1991	THIRD READING, CONCURRED IN. AYES, 32; NOES, 17.
	RETURNED TO HOUSE WITH AMENDMENTS.
IN	THE HOUSE
APRIL 18, 1991	RECEIVED FROM SENATE.
APRIL 22, 1991	SECOND READING, AMENDMENTS NOT CONCURRED IN.
	ON MOTION, FREE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

REQUESTED AND APPOINTED.

IN THE SENATE

APRIL 23, 1991

ON MOTION, FREE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REQUESTED AND APPOINTED.

IN THE HOUSE

APRIL 24, 1991

FREE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORTED.

SECOND READING, FREE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT ADOPTED.

IN THE SENATE

APRIL 24, 1991

FREE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT ADOPTED.

IN THE HOUSE

APRIL 25, 1991

THIRD READING, FREE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT ADOPTED.

SENT TO ENROLLING.

REPORTED CORRECTLY ENROLLED.

1 House Bill No. 252 2 INTRODUCED BY John March Boadley March

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A
PROCEDURE FOR SUMMARY DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE; AND PROVIDING
AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

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BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

NEW SECTION. Section 1. Summary dissolution — conditions necessary at commencement of proceedings. A marriage may be dissolved by the summary dissolution procedure specified in [sections 1 through 8] if all of the following conditions exist on the date the proceeding is commenced:

- (1) Each party has met the requirements of 40-4-104 with regard to dissolution of marriage.
- (2) Irreconcilable differences have caused the irretrievable breakdown of the marriage, and both parties agree that the marriage should be dissolved.
  - (3) There are no children from the relationship born before or during the marriage or adopted by the parties during the marriage, and the wife, to her knowledge, is not pregnant.
- 24 (4) (a) Except as provided in subsection (4)(b), 25 neither party has any interest in real property.



- 1 (b) The limitation of subsection (4)(a) does not apply
  2 to the lease of a residence occupied by either party if the
  3 lease does not include an option to purchase and if it
  4 terminates within 1 year from the date of the filing of the
- petition.

  (5) There are no unpaid obligations in excess of \$4,000 incurred by either or both of the parties after the date of their marriage, excluding the amount of any unpaid obligations with respect to an automobile
- obligations with respect to an automobile.

  (6) The total fair market value of property assets,
  excluding all encumbrances and automobiles, is less than
  \$13,000, and neither party has separate property assets in
  excess of \$13,000, excluding all encumbrances and
  automobiles.
- 15 (7) The parties have executed an agreement setting
  16 forth the division of assets and the assumption of
  17 liabilities and have duly executed any documents, title
  18 certificates, bills of sale, or other evidence of transfer
  19 necessary to effectuate the agreement.
- 20 (8) The parties waive any right to maintenance.
- 21 (9) The parties, upon entry of final judgment of 22 dissolution of marriage, irrevocably waive their respective 23 rights to appeal the terms of the dissolution and their 24 rights to move for a new trial on the dissolution.
  - (10) The parties have read and state that they

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understand the contents of the summary dissolution brochure

- provided for in {section 7}.
- 3 (11) The parties desire that the court dissolve the
- 4 marriage.
- 5 NEW SECTION. Section 2. Joint petition -- filing --
- 6 form -- contents. (1) A proceeding for summary dissolution
- 7 of marriage is commenced by filing in the district court a
- 8 joint petition in the form prescribed by the court and by
- 9 paying the fee required by [section 8].
- 10 (2) The petition must:
- 11 (a) be signed under oath by both parties;
- 12 (b) state that, as of the date of the filing of the
- 13 joint petition, each condition set forth in [section 1] has
- 14 been met:
- 15 (c) state the mailing address of both parties; and
- 16 (d) state whether or not the wife elects to have her
- 17 maiden or former name restored and, if so, state the name to
- 18 be restored.
- 19 NEW SECTION. Section 3. Revocation of joint petition
- 20 -- termination of proceeding -- notice -- copy to other
- 21 party. (1) At any time prior to the entry of final judgment,
- 22 either party to the marriage may revoke the joint petition
- 23 and thereby terminate the summary dissolution proceeding
- 24 filed pursuant to [sections 1 through 8].
- 25 (2) The revocation is effected by filing with the clerk

- 1 of the court in which the proceeding was commenced a notice
- 2 of revocation in the form and content prescribed by the
- 3 district court.
- 4 (3) The revoking party shall send a copy of the notice
- of revocation to the last-known address of the other party
- 6 by first-class mail, postage prepaid.
- 7 NEW SECTION. Section 4. Pinal judgment -- entry --
- 8 effect -- notice. After 90 days from the date of the filing
- 9 of the joint petition for summary dissolution, the district
- 10 court shall enter the final judgment dissolving the
- 11 marriage. Entry of final judgment restores each party to the
- 12 status of a single person and permits either to marry. The
- 13 clerk shall send a notice of entry of final judgment to the
- 14 last-known address of each party.
- 15 NEW SECTION. Section 5. Pinal judgment as final
- 16 adjudication of rights and obligations. Except as provided
- in [section 6], entry of final judgment constitutes a final
- 18 addudication of the rights and obligations of the parties
- 19 with respect to the status of the marriage and property
- 20 rights and constitutes a waiver of their respective rights
- 21 to maintenance, rights to appeal the terms of th
- 22 dissolution, and rights to a new trial.
- 23 NEW SECTION. Section 6. Actions to set aside final
- 24 judgment. (1) A final judgment made pursuant to [section 4]
- 25 does not prejudice or bar the rights of either party to

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institute an action to set aside the final judgment for fraud, duress, accident, mistake, or other grounds recognized at law or in equity or to make a motion pursuant to the Montana Rules of Civil Procedure.

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- (2) The district court shall set aside a final judgment made pursuant to [section 4] regarding all matters except the status of the marriage upon proof that the parties did not meet the requirements of [section 1] on the date the petition was filed.
- NEW SECTION. Section 7. Brochure to describe
  proceedings -- availability -- distribution -- contents and
  form. (1) Each district court shall make available a
  brochure, prepared and distributed by the attorney general,
  describing the requirements, nature, and effect of
  proceedings under (sections 1 through 8).
  - (2) (a) In nontechnical language, the brochure must:
  - (i) state that it is in the best interests of the parties to consult an attorney regarding the dissolution of their marriage. The services of an attorney may be obtained through lawyer referral services, group or prepaid legal services, or legal aid organizations.
- (ii) state that the brochure is not intended as a guide for self-representation in proceedings under [sections 1 through 8] and should not be relied upon exclusively by the parties;

1 (iii) provide a concise summary of the provisions of 2 [sections 1 through 8] and 40-4-104;

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3 (iv) describe the nature of services of the conciliation

court, if available;

5 (v) state that under the provisions of [sections 1 6 through 8], neither party to the marriage may obtain

maintenance from the other;

(vi) state in boldface type that, upon entry of final judgment, the parties' rights and obligations with respect to the marriage, including property and maintenance rights, are permanently adjudicated without right of appeal but that neither party is barred from instituting an action to set aside the final judgment for fraud, duress, accident, mistake, or other grounds recognized at law or in equity or

to make a motion pursuant to the Montana Rules of Civil

16 Procedure; and

17 (vii) state that until final judgment is entered, the
18 parties retain the status of married persons and cannot
19 remarry.

20 (b) The brochure may include other matters that the 21 attorney general considers appropriate.

NEW SECTION. Section 8. Pee. A \$100 filing fee must be paid to the clerk of the district court when the joint petition is filed. This fee includes costs for the filing of the joint petition and entry of final decree.

NEW SECTION. Section 9. Codification instruction.

[Sections 1 through 8] are intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 40, chapter 4, part 1, and the provisions of Title 40, chapter 4, part 1, apply to [sections 1 through 8].

NEW SECTION. Section 10. Effective date. [This act] is

effective on passage and approval.

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-End-

#### STATE OF MONTANA - FISCAL NOTE

#### Form BD-15

In compliance with a written request, there is hereby submitted a Fiscal Note for HB0752, as introduced.

#### **DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION:**

An act to establish a procedure for summary dissolution of marriage.

#### **ASSUMPTIONS:**

- 1. The cost of researching, writing, printing and distributing a sufficient number of brochures would be \$12,000.
- 2. Current law is represented by the executive budget recommendation for the Legal Service Bureau of the Department of Justice.
- 3. The current filing fee for a dissolution of marriage is \$100 plus \$25 for entry of judgment. This bill sets the filing fee and entry of final decree at a fee of \$100.

#### FISCAL IMPACT:

#### Expenditures:

Department of Justice: Legal Services Bureau

_	FY '92		FY '93			
	Current Law	Proposed Law	Difference	Current Law	Proposed Law	Difference
Personal Services	744,000	744,000	0	743,000	743,000	0
Operating Costs	166,000	178,000	12,000	161,000	161,000	0
Equipment	13,000	13,000	0	13,000	13,000	0
Total	923,000	935,000	12,000	917,000	917,000	0
<u>Funding:</u>						
General Fund (01)	923,000	935,000	12,000	917,000	917,000	0

### EFFECT ON COUNTY OR OTHER LOCAL REVENUE OR EXPENDITURES:

There may be a minor decrease in district court revenue from the reduction in fees addressed in Assumption 3. There may also be some reduction in the time spent by district courts on divorce procedures.

ROD SUNDSTED, BUDGET DIRECTOR

DATE

Office of Budget and Program Planning

HOWARD TOOLE, PRIMARY SPONSOR

Fiscal Note for HB0752, as introduced

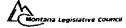
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4B 752

#### APPROVED BY COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

1	HOUSE BILL NO. 752
2	INTRODUCED BY TOOLE, MEASURE, BRADLEY, MERCER
3	
4	A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A
5	PROCEDURE FOR SUMMARY DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE; AND PROVIDING
6	AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."
7	
8	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:
9	NEW SECTION. Section 1. Summary dissolution
10	conditions necessary at commencement of proceedings. A
11	marriage may be dissolved by the summary dissolution
12	procedure specified in [sections 1 through 8 7] if all of
13	the following conditions exist on the date the proceeding is
14	commenced:
15	(1) Each party has met the requirements of 40-4-104
16	with regard to dissolution of marriage.
17	(2) Irreconcilable differences have caused the
18	irretrievable breakdown of the marriage, and both parties
19	agree that the marriage should be dissolved.
20	(3) There are no children from the relationship born
21	before or during the marriage or adopted by the parties
22	during the marriage, and the wife,-to-her-knowledge, is not
23	pregnant.
24	(4) (a) Except as provided in subsection (4)(b)

neither party has any interest in real property.



- (b) The limitation of subsection (4)(a) does not apply 1
- to the lease of a residence occupied by either party if the
- lease does not include an option to purchase and if it
- terminates within 1 year from the date of the filing of the
- 5 petition.
- (5) There are no unpaid obligations in excess of \$4,000
- incurred by either or both of the parties after the date of
- excluding the amount of any unpaid their marriage,
- obligations with respect to an-automobile A MOTOR VEHICLE
- WITH A RATED CARRYING LOAD IN PERSONS AND PROPERTY OF 1 TON 10
- OR LESS. 11

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- (6) The total fair market value of property assets, 12
- excluding all encumbrances and automobiles MOTOR VEHICLES 13
- 14 WITH A RATED CARRYING LOAD IN PERSONS AND PROPERTY OF 1 TON
- OR LESS, is less than \$13,000, and neither party has
- 16 separate property assets in excess of \$13,000, excluding all
- encumbrances and automobiles MOTOR VEHICLES WITH A RATED 17
- 18 CARRYING LOAD IN PERSONS AND PROPERTY OF 1 TON OR LESS.
- (7) The parties have executed an agreement setting 19
- forth the division of assets and the 20 assumption of
- 21 liabilities and have duly executed any documents, title
- 22 certificates, bills of sale, or other evidence of transfer
- 23 necessary to effectuate the agreement.
  - (8) The parties waive any right to maintenance.
- 25 (9) The parties, upon entry of final judgment of

- dissolution of marriage, irrevocably waive their respective rights to appeal the terms of the dissolution and their rights to move for a new trial on the dissolution.
- 4 (10) The parties have read and state that they
  5 understand the contents of the summary dissolution brochure
  6 provided for in [section 7].
- 7 (11) The parties desire that the court dissolve the 8 marriage.
- 9 NEW SECTION. Section 2. Joint petition filing —
  10 form contents. (1) A proceeding for summary dissolution
  11 of marriage is commenced by filing in the district court a
  12 joint petition in the form prescribed by the court and-by
  13 paying-the-fee-required-by-fsection-8+.
  - (2) The petition must:

- 15 (a) be signed under oath by both parties;
- 16 (b) state that, as of the date of the filing of the 17 joint petition, each condition set forth in [section 1] has 18 been met;
- (c) state the mailing address of both parties; and
- 20 (d) state whether or not the wife elects to have her
  21 maiden or former name restored and, if so, state the name to
  22 be restored.
- NEW SECTION. Section 3. Revocation of joint petition

  -- termination of proceeding -- notice -- copy to other
- 25 party. (1) At any time prior to the entry of final judgment,

- l either party to the marriage may revoke the joint petition
- 2 and thereby terminate the summary dissolution proceeding
- 3 filed pursuant to [sections 1 through θ 7].
- 4 (2) The revocation is effected by filing with the clerk
- 5 of the court in which the proceeding was commenced a notice
  - of revocation in the form and content prescribed by the
- 7 district court.
- 8 (3) The revoking party shall send a copy of the notice
- 9 of revocation to the last-known address of the other party
- 10 by first-class mail, postage prepaid.
- 11 NEW SECTION. Section 4. Final HEARING AND FINAL
- 12 judgment -- entry -- effect -- notice. After 90 30 days from
- 13 the date of the filing of the joint petition for summary
- 14 dissolution, the district court shall HOLD A HEARING AT
- 15 WHICH BOTH PARTIES MUST BE PRESENT, AND IF THE COURT
- 16 DETERMINES THAT THE CONDITIONS IN [SECTION 1] EXIST, THE
- 17 COURT SHALL enter the final judgment dissolving the
- 18 marriage. Entry of final judgment restores each party to the
- 19 status of a single person and permits either to marry. The
- 20 clerk shall send a notice of entry of final judgment to the
- 21 last-known address of each party.

- 22 NEW SECTION. Section 5. Final judgment as final
  - adjudication of rights and obligations. Except as provided
- 24 in [section 6], entry of final judgment constitutes a final
- 25 adjudication of the rights and obligations of the parties

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with respect to the status of the marriage and property rights and constitutes a waiver of their respective rights to maintenance, rights to appeal the terms of the dissolution, and rights to a new trial.

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NEW SECTION. Section 6. Actions to set aside final judgment. (1) A final judgment made pursuant to [section 4] does not prejudice or bar the rights of either party to institute an action to set aside the final judgment for fraud, duress, accident, mistake, or other grounds recognized at law or in equity or to make a motion pursuant to the Montana Rules of Civil Procedure.

(2) The district court shall set aside a final judgment made pursuant to [section 4] regarding all matters except the status of the marriage upon proof that the parties did not meet the requirements of [section 1] on the date the petition was filed.

NEW SECTION. Section 7. Brochure to describe proceedings — availability — distribution — contents and form. (1) Each district court shall make available a brochure, prepared and distributed by the attorney general, describing the requirements, nature, and effect of proceedings under [sections 1 through 8 7].

- (2) (a) In nontechnical language, the brochure must:
- 24 (i) state that it is in the best interests of the 25 parties to consult an attorney regarding the dissolution of

their marriage. The services of an attorney may be obtained through lawyer referral services, group or prepaid legal services, or legal aid organizations.

4 (ii) state that the brochure is not intended as a guide 5 for self-representation in proceedings under [sections 1 6 through 8 7] and should not be relied upon exclusively by 7 the parties;

8 (iii) provide a concise summary of the provisions of 9 [sections 1 through 8 7] and 40-4-104;

10 (iv) describe the nature of services of the conciliation
11 court, if available:

12 (v) state that under the provisions of [sections 1]
13 through 8 7], neither party to the marriage may obtain
14 maintenance from the other;

(vi) state in boldface type that, upon entry of final judgment, the parties' rights and obligations with respect to the marriage, including property and maintenance rights, are permanently adjudicated without right of appeal but that neither party is barred from instituting an action to set aside the final judgment for fraud, duress, accident, mistake, or other grounds recognized at law or in equity or to make a motion pursuant to the Montana Rules of Civil Procedure; and

24 (vii) state that until final judgment is entered, the 25 parties retain the status of married persons and cannot

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- 2 (b) The b.ochure may include other matters that the 3 attorney general considers appropriate.
- 4 <u>NEW-SECTION:</u>—Section-0:—Pee:-A-\$100-filing-fee-must-be
  5 paid-to-the-clerk-of--the--district--court--when--the--joint
  6 petition-is-filed:-This-fee-includes-costs-for-the-filing-of
  7 the-joint-petition-and-entry-of-final-decree:
- 8 NEW SECTION. Section 8. Codification instruction.
  9 [Sections 1 through 8 7] are intended to be codified as an
  10 integral part of Title 40, chapter 4, part 1, and the
- 11 provisions of Title 40, chapter 4, part 1, apply to 12 [sections 1 through  $\theta$  7].
- NEW SECTION. **Section 9.** Effective date. [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

-End-

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1	HOUSE BILL NO. 752
2	INTRODUCED BY TOOLE, MEASURE, BRADLEY, MERCER
3	
4	A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A
5	PROCEDURE FOR SUMMARY DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE; AND PROVIDING
6	AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."
7	
8	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:
9	NEW SECTION. Section 1. Summary dissolution
10	conditions necessary at commencement of proceedings.
11	marriage may be dissolved by the summary dissolution
12	procedure specified in [sections 1 through 6 $7$ ] if all of
13	the following conditions exist on the date the proceeding is
14	commenced:
15	(1) Each party has met the requirements of 40-4-104
16	with regard to dissolution of marriage.
17	(2) Irreconcilable differences have caused the
18	irretrievable breakdown of the marriage, and both parties
19	agree that the marriage should be dissolved.
20	(3) There are no children from the relationship born
21	before or during the marriage or adopted by the parties
22	during the marriage, and the wife;-to-her-knowledge; is not
23	pregnant.
24	(4) (a) Except as provided in subsection (4)(b),
25	neither party has any interest in real property.

1	(b) The limitation of subsection (4)(a) does not	appl
2	to the lease of a residence occupied by either party	if th
3	lease does not include an option to purchase and	if i
4	terminates within 1 year from the date of the filing	of th
5	petition.	

- 6 (5) There are no unpaid obligations in excess of \$4,000
  7 incurred by either or both of the parties after the date of
  8 their marriage, excluding the amount of any unpaid
  9 obligations with respect to an-automobile A MOTOR VEHICLE
  10 WITH A RATED CARRYING LOAD IN PERSONS AND PROPERTY OF 1 TON
  11 OR LESS.
  - (6) The total fair market value of property assets, excluding all encumbrances and automobiles MOTOR VEHICLES WITH A RATED CARRYING LOAD IN PERSONS AND PROPERTY OF 1 TON OR LESS, is less than \$13,000, and neither party has separate property assets in excess of \$13,000, excluding all encumbrances and automobiles MOTOR VEHICLES WITH A RATED CARRYING LOAD IN PERSONS AND PROPERTY OF 1 TON OR LESS.
  - (7) The parties have executed an agreement setting forth the division of assets and the assumption of liabilities and have duly executed any documents, title certificates, bills of sale, or other evidence of transfer necessary to effectuate the agreement.
    - (8) The parties waive any right to maintenance.
- 25 (9) The parties, upon entry of final judgment of

- dissolution of marriage, irrevocably waive their respective rights to appea' the terms of the dissolution and their rights to move for a new trial on the dissolution.
- 4 (10) The parties have read and state that they 5 understand the contents of the summary dissolution brochure 6 provided for in [section 7].
- 7 (11) The parties desire that the court dissolve the 8 marriage.
  - NEW SECTION. Section 2. Joint petition filing form contents. (1) A proceeding for summary dissolution of marriage is commenced by filing in the district court a joint petition in the form prescribed by the court and-by paying-the-fee-required-by-faction-81.
- 14 (2) The petition must:

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- 15 (a) be signed under oath by both parties;
  - (b) state that, as of the date of the filing of the joint petition, each condition set forth in [section 1] has been met;
- 19 (c) state the mailing address of both parties; and
- 20 (d) state whether or not the wife elects to have her
  21 maiden or former name restored and, if so, state the name to
  22 be restored.
- NEW SECTION. Section 3. Revocation of joint petition

  -- termination of proceeding -- notice -- copy to other

  party. (1) At any time prior to the entry of final judgment,

- either party to the marriage may revoke the joint petition and thereby terminate the summary dissolution proceeding filed pursuant to [sections 1 through 6 7].
- 4 (2) The revocation is effected by filing with the clerk
  5 of the court in which the proceeding was commenced a notice
  6 of revocation in the form and content prescribed by the
  7 district court.
- 8 (3) The revoking party shall send a copy of the notice 9 of revocation to the last-known address of the other party 10 by first-class mail, postage prepaid.
- NEW SECTION. Section 4. Trimal HEARING AND 11 FINAL 12 judgment -- entry -- effect -- notice. After 90 30 days from 13 the date of the filing of the joint petition for summary 14 dissolution, the district court shall HOLD A HEARING AT 15 WHICH BOTH PARTIES MUST BE PRESENT, AND IF THE COURT 16 DETERMINES THAT THE CONDITIONS IN [SECTION 1] EXIST, THE COURT SHALL enter the final judgment dissolving 17 18 marriage. Entry of final judgment restores each party to the 19 status of a single person and permits either to marry. The 20 clerk shall send a notice of entry of final judgment to the last-known address of each party. 21
  - NEW SECTION. Section 5. Final judgment as final adjudication of rights and obligations. Except as provided in [section 6], entry of final judgment constitutes a final adjudication of the rights and obligations of the parties

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- with respect to the status of the marriage and property rights and constitutes a waiver of their respective rights to maintenance, rights to appeal the terms of the dissolution, and rights to a new trial.
- NEW SECTION. Section 6. Actions to set aside final judgment. (1) A final judgment made pursuant to [section 4] does not prejudice or bar the rights of either party to institute an action to set aside the final judgment for fraud, duress, accident, mistake, or other grounds recognized at law or in equity or to make a motion pursuant to the Montana Rules of Civil Procedure.

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- (2) The district court shall set aside a final judgment made pursuant to [section 4] regarding all matters except the status of the marriage upon proof that the parties did not meet the requirements of [section 1] on the date the petition was filed.
- NEW SECTION. Section 7. Brochure to describe proceedings availability distribution contents and form. (1) Each district court shall make available a brochure, prepared and distributed by the attorney general, describing the requirements, nature, and effect of proceedings under [sections 1 through 8 7].
  - (2) (a) In nontechnical language, the brochure must:

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24 (i) state that it is in the best interests of the 25 parties to consult an attorney regarding the dissolution of their marriage. The services of an attorney may be obtained through lawyer referral services, group or prepaid legal

services, or legal aid organizations.

- 4 (ii) state that the brochure is not intended as a guide 5 for self-representation in proceedings under [sections 1 6 through 8 7] and should not be relied upon exclusively by 7 the parties;
- 8 (iii) provide a concise summary of the provisions of 9 [sections 1 through 8 7] and 40-4-104;
- 10 (iv) describe the nature of services of the conciliation
  11 court, if available;
- 12 (v) state that under the provisions of [sections 1]
  13 through 8 7], neither party to the marriage may obtain
  14 maintenance from the other:
- judgment, the parties' rights and obligations with respect to the marriage, including property and maintenance rights, are permanently adjudicated without right of appeal but that

(vi) state in boldface type that, upon entry of final

- 19 neither party is barred from instituting an action to set
- 20 aside the final judgment for fraud, duress, accident,
- 21 mistake, or other grounds recognized at law or in equity or
- 22 to make a motion pursuant to the Montana Rules of Civil
- 23 Procedure; and

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(vii) state that until final judgment is entered, the parties retain the status of married persons and cannot

	remarry.
2	(b) The brochure may include other matters that the
3	attorney general considers appropriate.
4	NEW-SECTION: Section-8:Pee:-A-\$100-filing-fee-must-be
5	paid-to-the-clerk-ofthedistrictcourtwhenthejoint
6	petition-is-filedThis-fee-includes-costs-for-the-filing-of
7	the-joint-petition-and-entry-of-final-decree-
8	NEW SECTION. Section 8. Codification instruction.
9	[Sections 1 through $\theta$ $\overline{2}$ ] are intended to be codified as an
10	integral part of Title 40, chapter 4, part 1, and the
11	provisions of Title 40, chapter 4, part 1, apply to
12	[sections 1 through 8 7].
13	NEW SECTION. Section 9. Effective date. [This act] is

-End-

effective on passage and approval.

#### SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Page 1 of 1 April 16, 1991

#### MR. PRESIDENT:

We, your committee on Judiciary having had under consideration House Bill No. 752 (third reading copy -- blue), respectfully report that House Bill No. 752 be amended and as so amended be concurred in:

- 1. Title, lines 5 and 6. Strike: "; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE"
- 2. Page 4, line 12.
  Strike: "30"
  Insert: "20"
- 3. Page 7, lines 13 and 14. Strike: section 9 in its entirety

Signed: Linan Continuan
Richard Pinsoneault, Chairman

11 Soord

Sec. of Senate

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1	HOUSE BILL NO. 752
2	INTRODUCED BY TOOLE, MEASURE, BRADLEY, MERCER
3	
4	A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A
5	PROCEDURE FOR SUMMARY DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE; -AND-PROVIDING
6	AN-IMMEDIATE-EPPECTIVE-DATE."
7	
8	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:
9	NEW SECTION. Section 1. Summary dissolution
10	conditions necessary at commencement of proceedings. A
11	marriage may be dissolved by the summary dissolution
12	procedure specified in [sections 1 through 0 7] if all of
13	the following conditions exist on the date the proceeding is
14	commenced:
15	(1) Each party has met the requirements of 40-4-104
16	with regard to dissolution of marriage.
17	(2) Irreconcilable differences have caused the
18	irretrievable breakdown of the marriage, and both parties
19	agree that the marriage should be dissolved.

(3) There are no children from the relationship born

(4) (a) Except as provided in subsection (4)(b),

before or during the marriage or adopted by the parties

during the marriage, and the wife,-to-her-knowledge, is not

neither party has any interest in real property.

- 1 (b) The limitation of subsection (4)(a) does not apply 2 to the lease of a residence occupied by either party if the 3 lease does not include an option to purchase and if it terminates within 1 year from the date of the filing of the 5 petition. (5) There are no unpaid obligations in excess of \$4,000 incurred by either or both of the parties after the date of
- their marriage, excluding the amount of any unpaid obligations with respect to an-automobile A MOTOR VEHICLE WITH A RATED CARRYING LOAD IN PERSONS AND PROPERTY OF 1 TON 10 11 OR LESS. 12 (6) The total fair market value of property assets, 13 excluding all encumbrances and automobiles MOTOR VEHICLES
- WITH A RATED CARRYING LOAD IN PERSONS AND PROPERTY OF 1 TON 14 15 OR LESS, is less than \$13,000, and neither party has separate property assets in excess of \$13,000, excluding all 16 encumbrances and automobiles MOTOR VEHICLES WITH A RATED 17
  - CARRYING LOAD IN PERSONS AND PROPERTY OF 1 TON OR LESS.
- 19 (7) The parties have executed an agreement setting 20 forth the division of assets and the assumption of 21 liabilities and have duly executed any documents, title 22 certificates, bills of sale, or other evidence of transfer 23 necessary to effectuate the agreement.
  - (8) The parties waive any right to maintenance.
- 25 (9) The parties, upon entry of final judgment of

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HB 752

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- dissolution of marriage, irrevocably waive their respective rights to appeal the terms of the dissolution and their rights to move for a new trial on the dissolution.
- 4 (10) The parties have read and state that they
  5 understand the contents of the summary dissolution brochure
  6 provided for in [section 7].
- 7 (11) The parties desire that the court dissolve the 8 marriage.
- NEW SECTION. Section 2. Joint petition filing —

  form contents. (1) A proceeding for summary dissolution

  of marriage is commenced by filing in the district court a

  joint petition in the form prescribed by the court and-by

  paying-the-fee-required-by-fsection-8;
- 14 (2) The petition must:
- 15 (a) be signed under oath by both parties;
- 16 (b) state that, as of the date of the filing of the 17 joint petition, each condition set forth in [section 1] has 18 been met;
- 19 (c) state the mailing address of both parties; and
- 20 (d) state whether or not the wife elects to have her
  21 maiden or former name restored and, if so, state the name to
  22 be restored.
- NEW SECTION. Section 3. Revocation of joint petition

  -- termination of proceeding -- notice -- copy to other

  party. (1) At any time prior to the entry of final judgment,

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- either party to the marriage may revoke the joint petition
  and thereby terminate the summary dissolution proceeding
  filed pursuant to [sections 1 through 8 7].
  - (2) The revocation is effected by filing with the clerk of the court in which the proceeding was commenced a notice of revocation in the form and content prescribed by the district court.
  - (3) The revoking party shall send a copy of the notice of revocation to the last-known address of the other party by first-class mail, postage prepaid.
  - NEW SECTION. Section 4. Final HEARING AND FINAL judgment -- entry -- effect -- notice. After 90 30 20 days from the date of the filing of the joint petition for summary dissolution, the district court shall HOLD A HEARING AT WHICH BOTH PARTIES MUST BE PRESENT, AND IF THE COURT DETERMINES THAT THE CONDITIONS IN [SECTION 1] EXIST, THE COURT SHALL enter the final judgment dissolving the marriage. Entry of final judgment restores each party to the status of a single person and permits either to marry. The clerk shall send a notice of entry of final judgment to the last-known address of each party.
- NEW SECTION. Section 5. Final judgment as final adjudication of rights and obligations. Except as provided in [section 6], entry of final judgment constitutes a final adjudication of the rights and obligations of the parties

- l with respect to the status of the marriage and property
- 2 rights and constitutes a waiver of their respective rights
- 3 to maintenance, rights to appeal the terms of the
- 4 dissolution, and rights to a new trial.
- 5 NEW SECTION. Section 6. Actions to set aside final
- 6 judgment. (1) A final judgment made pursuant to [section 4]
- 7 does not prejudice or bar the rights of either party to
- 8 institute an action to set aside the final judgment for
  - fraud, duress, accident, mistake, or other grounds
- 10 recognized at law or in equity or to make a motion pursuant
- 11 to the Montana Rules of Civil Procedure.
- 12 (2) The district court shall set aside a final judgment
- 13 made pursuant to [section 4] regarding all matters except
- 14 the status of the marriage upon proof that the parties did
- 15 not meet the requirements of [section 1] on the date the
- 16 petition was filed.

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- 17 NEW SECTION. Section 7. Brochure to describe
- 18 proceedings -- availability -- distribution -- contents and
- 19 form. (1) Each district court shall make available a
- 20 brochure, prepared and distributed by the attorney general,
- 21 describing the requirements, nature, and effect of
- 22 proceedings under [sections 1 through 8 7].
  - (2) (a) In nontechnical language, the brochure must:
- (i) state that it is in the best interests of the
- parties to consult an attorney regarding the dissolution of

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- 1 their marriage. The services of an attorney may be obtained
  - through lawyer referral services, group or prepaid legal
- 3 services, or legal aid organizations.
- 4 (ii) state that the brochure is not intended as a guide
- 5 for self-representation in proceedings under [sections 1
  - through 8 7] and should not be relied upon exclusively by
- 7 the parties;

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- 8 (iii) provide a concise summary of the provisions of
- [sections 1 through 0.7] and 40-4-104;
- 10 (iv) describe the nature of services of the conciliation
- ll court, if available;
- 12 (v) state that under the provisions of [sections 1
- 13 through 8 7], neither party to the marriage may obtain
- 14 maintenance from the other;
- 15 (vi) state in boldface type that, upon entry of final
- 16 judgment, the parties' rights and obligations with respect
- 17 to the marriage, including property and maintenance rights,
- 18 are permanently adjudicated without right of appeal but that
- 19 neither party is barred from instituting an action to set
- 20 aside the final judgment for fraud, duress, accident,
- 21 mistake, or other grounds recognized at law or in equity or
  - to make a motion pursuant to the Montana Rules of Civil
- 23 Procedure; and
- (vii) state that until final judgment is entered, the
- 25 parties retain the status of married persons and cannot

1 remarry.

- 2 (b) The brochure may include other matters that the 3 attorney general considers appropriate.
- 4 <u>NEW-SECTION.</u>—Section-8.—Peer-A-\$100-filing-fee-must-be
  5 paid-to-the-slerk-of--the-district--court--when--the--joint
  6 petition-is-filed--This-fee-includes-costs-for-the-filing-of
- 7 the-joint-petition-and-entry-of-final-decree-
- 8 NEW SECTION. Section 8. Codification instruction.
- 9 [Sections 1 through  $\theta$  7] are intended to be codified as an
- 10 integral part of Title 40, chapter 4, part 1, and the
- 11 provisions of Title 40, chapter 4, part 1, apply to
- 12 [sections 1 through 8 7].
- 13 NEW-SECTION: -- Section-9: -- Effective -- date: {This-act}-is
- 14 effective-on-passage-and-approval-

-End-

### Free Conference Committee on House Bill 752 Report No. 1, April 23, 1991

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Page 1 of 1

Mr. Speaker and Mr. President:

We, your Free Conference Committee met and considered House Bill 752 and recommend House Bill 752 (reference copy -- salmon) be amended as follows:

1. Title, line 6. Following: "DATE"

Insert: "; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE"

2. Page 4, lines 19 through 21. Following: "marry." on line 19

Strike: the remainder of line 19 through "party." on line 21.

3. Page 7, line 15. Following: line 14

Insert: "NEW SECTION. Section 9. Effective date. [This act] is
 effective July 1. 1992."

Sen.

And this Free Conference Committee report be adopted.

For the House:

For the Senate:

Towe, Chair

Rep Rice

Rep // Southworth

Sen. Halligan

Sen. Grosfield

FCCR BI

ADOPT

REJECT

HB 0752/04 52nd Legislature

HB 0752/04

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1	HOUSE BILL NO. 752
2	INTRODUCED BY TOOLE, MEASURE, BRADLEY, MERCER
3	
4	A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A
5	PROCEDURE FOR SUMMARY DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE; -AND-PROVIDING
6	ANIMMEDIATEEPPECTIVEBATE; AND PROVIDING A DELAYED
7	EFFECTIVE DATE."
8	
9	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:
10	NEW SECTION. Section 1. Summary dissolution
11	conditions necessary at commencement of proceedings. A
12	marriage may be dissolved by the summary dissolution
13	procedure specified in [sections 1 through $\theta$ $\underline{\mathcal{I}}$ ] if all of
14	the following conditions exist on the date the proceeding is
15	commenced:
16	(1) Each party has met the requirements of 40-4-104
17	with regard to dissolution of marriage.
18	(2) Irreconcilable differences have caused the

agree that the marriage should be dissolved. (3) There are no children from the relationship born before or during the marriage or adopted by the parties during the marriage, and the wife; -to-her-knowledge; is not

irretrievable breakdown of the marriage, and both parties

(4) (a) Except as provided in subsection (4)(b), 25

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pregnant.

- 1 neither party has any interest in real property.
- 2 (b) The limitation of subsection (4)(a) does not apply to the lease of a residence occupied by either party if the 3 lease does not include an option to purchase and if it terminates within 1 year from the date of the filing of the petition.
- 7 (5) There are no unpaid obligations in excess of \$4,000 incurred by either or both of the parties after the date of 9 their marriage, excluding the amount of any unpaid 10 obligations with respect to an-automobile A MOTOR VEHICLE 11 WITH A RATED CARRYING LOAD IN PERSONS AND PROPERTY OF 1 TON 12 OR LESS.
  - (6) The total fair market value of property assets, excluding all encumbrances and automobiles MOTOR VEHICLES WITH A RATED CARRYING LOAD IN PERSONS AND PROPERTY OF 1 TON OR LESS, is less than \$13,000, and neither party has separate property assets in excess of \$13,000, excluding all encumbrances and automobiles MOTOR VEHICLES WITH A RATED CARRYING LOAD IN PERSONS AND PROPERTY OF 1 TON OR LESS.
- 20 (7) The parties have executed an agreement setting forth the division of assets and the assumption of liabilities and have duly executed any documents, title 22 23 certificates, bills of sale, or other evidence of transfer 24 necessary to effectuate the agreement.
- 25 (8) The parties waive any right to maintenance.

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- (9) The parties, upon entry of final judgment of dissolution of marriage, irrevocably waive their respective rights to appeal the terms of the dissolution and their rights to move for a new trial on the dissolution.
- 5 (10) The parties have read and state that they 6 understand the contents of the summary dissolution brochure 7 provided for in [section 7].
- 8 (11) The parties desire that the court dissolve the
  9 marriage.
- NEW SECTION. Section 2. Joint petition -- filing -
  form -- contents. (1) A proceeding for summary dissolution

  of marriage is commenced by filing in the district court a

  joint petition in the form prescribed by the court and--by

  paying-the-fee-required-by-frection-81.
  - (2) The petition must:

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- (a) be signed under oath by both parties;
- 17 (b) state that, as of the date of the filing of the 18 joint petition, each condition set forth in [section 1] has 19 been met;
  - (c) state the mailing address of both parties; and
- 21 (d) state whether or not the wife elects to have her
  22 maiden or former name restored and, if so, state the name to
  23 be restored.
- NEW SECTION. Section 3. Revocation of joint petition
  termination of proceeding -- notice -- copy to other

- party. (1) At any time prior to the entry of final judgment,
  - either party to the marriage may revoke the joint petition
- 3 and thereby terminate the summary dissolution proceeding
- 4 filed pursuant to [sections 1 through 6 7].
- 5 (2) The revocation is effected by filing with the clerk 6 of the court in which the proceeding was commenced a notice 7 of revocation in the form and content prescribed by the 8 district court.
- 9 (3) The revoking party shall send a copy of the notice 10 of revocation to the last-known address of the other party 11 by first-class mail, postage prepaid.
- 12 NEW SECTION. Section 4. Final HEARING AND FINAL 13 judgment -- entry -- effect ---notice. After 90 30 20 days 14 from the date of the filing of the joint petition for 15 summary dissolution, the district court shall HOLD A HEARING 16 AT WHICH BOTH PARTIES MUST BE PRESENT, AND IF THE COURT 17 DETERMINES THAT THE CONDITIONS IN {SECTION 1} EXIST, THE COURT SHALL enter the final judgment dissolving the 18 19 marriage. Entry of final judgment restores each party to the 20 status of a single person and permits either to marry. The 21 clerk--shall-send-a-notice-of-entry-of-final-judgment-to-the last-known-address-of-each-party: 22
- NEW SECTION. Section 5. Final judgment as final adjudication of rights and obligations. Except as provided in [section 6], entry of final judgment constitutes a .final

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adjudication of the rights and obligations of the parties
with respect to the status of the marriage and property
rights and constitutes a waiver of their respective rights
to maintenance, rights to appeal the terms of the
dissolution, and rights to a new trial.

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NEW SECTION. Section 6. Actions to set aside final judgment. (1) A final judgment made pursuant to [section 4] does not prejudice or bar the rights of either party to institute an action to set aside the final judgment for fraud, duress, accident, mistake, or other grounds recognized at law or in equity or to make a motion pursuant to the Montana Rules of Civil Procedure.

- (2) The district court shall set aside a final judgment made pursuant to [section 4] regarding all matters except the status of the marriage upon proof that the parties did not meet the requirements of [section 1] on the date the petition was filed.
- NEW SECTION. Section 7. Brochure to describe proceedings availability distribution contents and form. (1) Each district court shall make available a brochure, prepared and distributed by the attorney general, describing the requirements, nature, and effect of proceedings under [sections 1 through 8 7].
  - (2) (a) In nontechnical language, the brochure must:
- 25 (i) state that it is in the best interests of the

- parties to consult an attorney regarding the dissolution of their marriage. The services of an attorney may be obtained through lawyer referral services, group or prepaid legal services, or legal aid organizations.
- 5 (ii) state that the brochure is not intended as a guide 6 for self-representation in proceedings under [sections 1 7 through 0 1] and should not be relied upon exclusively by 8 the parties:
- 9 (iii) provide a concise summary of the provisions of 10 [sections 1 through 8 7] and 40-4-104;
- 11 (iv) describe the nature of services of the conciliation 12 court, if available:
- (v) state that under the provisions of [sections 1 through 6 7], neither party to the marriage may obtain maintenance from the other:
- 16 (vi) state in boldface type that, upon entry of final 17 judgment, the parties' rights and obligations with respect to the marriage, including property and maintenance rights, 18 19 are permanently adjudicated without right of appeal but that 20 neither party is barred from instituting an action to set 21 aside the final judgment for fraud, duress, accident, mistake, or other grounds recognized at law or in equity or 22 to make a motion pursuant to the Montana Rules of Civil 23
- 25 (vii) state that until final judgment is entered, the

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Procedure; and

- parties retain the status of married persons and cannot
  remarry.
- 3 (b) The brochure may include other matters that the4 attorney general considers appropriate.
- 5 NEW-SECTION: -- Section-0: -- Pee: -A-\$100-filing-fee-must-be
  6 paid--to--the--clerk--of--the--district-court-when-the-joint
  - petition-is-filed:-This-fee-includes-costs-for-the-filing-of
- 8 the-joint-petition-and-entry-of-final-decree-
- 9 NEW SECTION. Section 8. Codification instruction.
- 10 [Sections 1 through  $6 \frac{7}{2}$ ] are intended to be codified as an
- 11 integral part of Title 40, chapter 4, part 1, and the
- 12 provisions of Title 40, chapter 4, part 1, apply to
- 13 [sections 1 through 8 7].

- 14 NBW-SBCTION:--Section-9:--Effective-date: [This-act]--is
- 15 effective-on-passage-and-approval;
- 16 NEW SECTION. SECTION 9. EFFECTIVE DATE. [THIS ACT] IS
- 17 EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1992.

-End-