
THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 1875
Author: Hart (D), et al.
Amended: 8/4/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 12-0, 6/9/26

AYES: Umberg, Niello, Allen, Ashby, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Reyes,
Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

NO VOTE RECORDED: Stern

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 67-0, 3/23/26 (Consent) - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Dissolution of marriage

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill permits a court to reduce or waive the six-month period before which a final judgment of dissolution of marriage may be entered, upon a showing of good cause, as provided.

Senate Floor amendments of 8/3/2026 make a non-substantive change and add co-authors.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes procedures for the dissolution of marriage through a court proceeding. (Family (Fam.) Code, div. 6, pt. 3, §§ 2300 et seq.)
- 2) Provides that a party may commence a proceeding for dissolution of marriage by filing a petition with the court. (Fam. Code, § 2330.)
- 3) Provides alternatives to the petition process described in 2), as follows:

- a) If there are no children of the marriage, the parties have no interest in real property, the value of the parties' community property assets is below \$25,000, the parties have executed an agreement setting forth the division of assets, and the parties waive rights to spousal support, the parties can proceed with joint petition for summary dissolution, which allows for the entry of judgment on the terms agreed to by the parties. (Fam. Code, div. 6, pt. 3, ch. 5, §§ 2400-2406.)
 - b) If the parties do not qualify for the summary dissolution procedure but intend to resolve outstanding issues by agreement, the parties can file a joint petition for dissolution, which allows for the entry of judgment on the terms agreed to by the parties in a non-adversarial manner. (Fam. Code, § 2330(c); *see* SB 1427 (Allen, Ch. 190, Stats. 2024).)
- 4) Provides that no judgment of dissolution based on a petition filed under 2) or a joint petition filed under 3)(a) is final for the purpose of terminating the marriage relationship of the parties until six months have expired from the date of service of a copy of summons and petition, or from the respondent's first appearance, whichever occurs first, and that the court may extend this six-month period for good cause shown. (Fam. Code, § 2339.)
- 5) Provides that, in a proceeding for summary dissolution under 3)(b), the judgment shall be entered six months from the date of the filing of the joint petition for summary dissolution. (Fam. Code, § 2403.)

This bill:

- 1) Permits the court to reduce or waive the six-month period before entry of final judgment on a petition or joint petition for dissolution for good cause shown, if both of the following conditions are met:
- a) The parties have resolved all material issues related to the dissolution.
 - b) The court finds that good cause exists, through either (1) a noticed hearing, or (2) the stipulation of the parties as to good cause, and the court concurs that the stipulation establishes good cause.
- 2) Provides that examples of good cause sufficient for 1) include, but are not limited to:
- a) The petitioning party is the victim of domestic violence during the marriage, and the petitioning party requests a waiver or reduction of the cooling-off period for their health, safety, and wellbeing.

- b) The parties have signed and filed a marital settlement agreement resolving all issues material to the dissolution.
 - c) One party seeks to remarry, and the waiver or reduction will not affect any issues material to the dissolution bifurcated by the court, as specified.
- 3) Permits the court to reduce or waive the six-month period before entry of final judgment in a summary dissolution proceeding for good cause shown.

Comments

In California, divorce—or as it is legally known, dissolution of marriage—is a court process. A party who wishes to end their marriage must file a petition with the court, and the other party must file a response; then, to the extent there are disputes among the parties about the division of assets, custody, or other terms of the dissolution, the court works it out. Divorcing couples have three options for dissolution: a regular petition for dissolution, through which the court resolves disputed issues relating to disposition of assets, support, and other matters; summary dissolution, for couples who with no children of the marriage, have minimal assets, and have agreed in advance to the terms of the dissolution; and, for couples who do not qualify for summary dissolution, but who have agreed to work out the terms of the dissolution collaboratively, a joint petition process. Under all three procedures, a judgment of dissolution cannot be entered until six months after the commencement of the proceeding (known as the “cooling-off period”), and the court can extend the cooling-off period for the regular petition and joint petition processes as needed. California’s cooling-off period is one of the longest in the country.

This bill permits a court to reduce or waive the six-month cooling-off period upon a showing of good cause, provided that the parties have resolved all of the material issues related to the dissolution. In a proceeding based on a regular or joint petition, good cause must be established through stipulation of the parties or at a noticed hearing; this bill also provides a non-exclusive list of factors that constitute good cause, including that the petitioning party is a victim of domestic violence who requests the waiver or reduction for their health, safety, or wellbeing; the parties have resolved all issues related to the dissolution; or one party wishes to remarry and the waiver or reduction will not affect any issues material to the dissolution. In a proceeding for summary dissolution, no hearing or stipulation is required, and the judge has the discretion to determine whether good cause for the waiver or reduction has been established.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/3/26)

California Baptist Capitol Ministry
California Women's Law Center
Coalition of California Welfare Rights Organizations
Domestic Violence Solutions
Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California
Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office
Santa Barbara Women's Political Action Committee
Sacramento Regional Family Justice Center Foundation

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/3/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office:

Current law imposes a six-month "cooling off" period before a divorce can become final. As a result, a marriage cannot legally end until at least six months have passed, even if the judge has signed the judgment. In domestic violence and other urgent situations, this delay can be harmful because it may keep survivors legally tied to a perpetrator and can make safety planning and stability harder. AB 1875 addresses this problem by allowing judges to consider supporting facts and expedite dissolution when the judge believes that it is in the interest and safety of the victims.

AB 1875 provides a practical and thoughtful solution. By allowing courts discretion to reduce or waive the waiting period when good cause is shown, the bill ensures that judges can respond appropriately to circumstances where delay would be harmful or unnecessary, particularly for survivors seeking to move forward safely.

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 67-0, 3/23/26

AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bryan, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schultz, Sharp-Collins,

Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson,
Zbur, Rivas

NO VOTE RECORDED: Alvarez, Bauer-Kahan, Bonta, Calderon, Elhawary,
Ellis, Hadwick, Johnson, Lee, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Celeste Rodriguez, Schiavo

Prepared by: Allison Whitt Meredith / JUD. / (916) 651-4113
8/5/26 16:20:51

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