

- SUBJECT:** Waiving waiting period in divorces involving domestic violence
- COMMITTEE:** State Affairs — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 8 ayes — Swinford, Paxton, Van Arsdale, Christian, B. Cook, Flynn, Parker, Veasey
- 0 nays
- 1 absent — Farrar
- SENATE VOTE:** On final passage, May 1 — 31-0, on Local and Uncontested Calendar
- WITNESSES:** (*On House companion, HB 3632:*)
For — Erin Hendricks (*Registered, but did not testify*: Tom Aldred, Texas Conservative Coalition)
- Against — None
- BACKGROUND:** Family Code, sec. 6.702, prohibits a court from granting a final decree in a divorce before the 60th day after the date the suit was filed.
- The 60-day waiting period allows couples seeking to divorce an opportunity for reconciliation. However, couples with a history of domestic violence may not be well-served by the waiting period because violence often escalates when the abused spouse seeks to leave the relationship.
- DIGEST:** SB 1783 would amend Family Code, sec. 6.702, to specify that a waiting period would not be required before a court could grant a divorce in cases in which a spouse has been convicted of an offense that includes assaulting or threatening the petitioner.
- The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take

effect September 1, 2007, and would apply only to suits for dissolution of marriages filed on or after the effective date.