

SENATE BILL No. 1350

May 22, 2002, Introduced by Senators HART, MURPHY, MILLER, DE BEAUSSAERT, YOUNG and SCOTT and referred to the Committee on Families, Mental Health and Human Services.

A bill to amend 1846 RS 84, entitled
"Of divorce,"
(MCL 552.1 to 552.45) by adding section 15a.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 SEC. 15A. (1) AFTER A COMPLAINT IS FILED IN AN ACTION FOR
2 DIVORCE OR SEPARATE MAINTENANCE, THE COURT SHALL ORDER THE PAR-
3 TIES TO THE ACTION TO ATTEND AN EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR OR SIMILAR
4 PROGRAM RELATED TO PARENTING RESPONSIBILITIES, THE EFFECTS OF
5 DIVORCE OR SEPARATION ON CHILDREN, OPTIONS FOR CONFLICT RESOLU-
6 TION, AND FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES. THIS SUBSECTION APPLIES
7 ONLY IF 1 OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING ARE TRUE:

8 (A) THE PARTIES ARE A MINOR CHILD'S PARENTS.

9 (B) EITHER PARTY IS A MINOR CHILD'S PHYSICAL CUSTODIAN AT

10 THE TIME OF FILING THE COMPLAINT FOR DIVORCE OR SEPARATE

11 MAINTENANCE.

1 (C) THE WIFE IS PREGNANT AND, AFTER THE CHILD IS BORN, THE
2 HUSBAND WOULD BE THE CHILD'S FATHER UNDER THE LAW.

3 (2) AN EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR OR SIMILAR PROGRAM REQUIRED UNDER
4 SUBSECTION (1) SHALL BE CONDUCTED BY A PERSON APPROVED BY THE
5 COURT. A PERSON APPROVED BY THE COURT TO CONDUCT AN EDUCATIONAL
6 SEMINAR OR SIMILAR PROGRAM UNDER SUBSECTION (1) MAY USE A FEE
7 SCHEDULE THAT ACCOMMODATES FAMILIES OF VARIOUS FINANCIAL MEANS,
8 INCLUDING ALLOWING PARTICIPATION BY INDIGENT INDIVIDUALS FOR NO
9 FEE.

10 (3) THE COURT MAY EXCUSE A PARTY TO AN ACTION FOR DIVORCE OR
11 SEPARATE MAINTENANCE FROM THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION FOR
12 GOOD CAUSE.

13 (4) OTHER THAN A STATEMENT OR ADMISSION BY A PARTY ADMITTING
14 CRIMINAL ACTIVITY OR CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT, A STATEMENT OR
15 ADMISSION BY A PARTY IN AN EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR OR SIMILAR PROGRAM
16 REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (1) IS NOT ADMISSIBLE INTO EVIDENCE IN
17 A SUBSEQUENT PROCEEDING.