
DIGEST

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HB 52 Reengrossed

2026 Regular Session

Villio

Abstract: Provides for the trial of misdemeanor offenses.

Present law provides that a defendant charged with a misdemeanor in which the punishment, as set forth in present law defining the offense, may be a fine in excess of \$1,000 or imprisonment for more than six months, shall be tried by a jury of six jurors, all of whom must concur to render a verdict.

Present law further provides that a defendant charged with any other misdemeanor shall be tried by the court without a jury.

Proposed law amends present law to change the monetary threshold that must be exceeded to invoke a jury trial from \$1,000 to \$2,500. Otherwise retains present law.

Proposed law applies prospectively and retroactively to June 8, 2025.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends C.Cr.P. Art. 779(A))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice to the original bill:

1. Change the monetary threshold that must be exceeded to invoke a jury trial from \$1,000 to \$2,500.
2. Change the maximum financial penalty for a non-jury trial misdemeanor from \$1,000 to \$2,500.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Remove proposed law relative to the designation of certain misdemeanors as non-jury trial misdemeanors.