

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 541 (HB 310)

2026 Regular Session

Carlson

Existing law provides for the right of a defendant to waive a jury trial.

New law requires the random reassignment of a defendant's case among all the remaining judges who are assigned criminal matters within their divisions or sections immediately following the filing of the defendant's motion pursuant to existing law in a district court with three or more judges who are assigned criminal matters.

New law authorizes the prosecuting authority to file a written waiver of reassignment within 10 days of being served notice of the defendant's written motion to waive the jury. Further provides that waiver prohibits the reassignment of the case.

New law provides that when a defendant waives trial by jury in accordance with present law (C.Cr.P. Art. 780) and the waiver results in reassignment, the filing of that waiver constitutes an interruption of the time periods provided in existing law (C.Cr.P. Art. 701), and the time periods begin to run anew.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Amends C.Cr.P. Art. 780(B))