

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 5302

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As Reported By Senate Committee On:  
Judiciary, February 12, 1999

**Title:** An act relating to jurisdiction of superior courts in civil antiharassment actions.

**Brief Description:** Defining the jurisdiction of civil antiharassment actions.

**Sponsors:** Senators Roach and Heavey.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Judiciary: 2/8/99, 2/12/99 [DP].

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

**Majority Report:** Do pass.

Signed by Senators Heavey, Chair; Kline, Vice Chair; Costa, Goings, Hargrove, Haugen, Johnson, Long, McCaslin, Roach, Thibaudeau and Zarelli.

**Staff:** Lidia Mori (786-7755)

**Background:** The Legislature has granted jurisdiction to district courts to preside over matters involving civil anti-harassment protection order petitions. Superior courts have concurrent jurisdiction to receive transfers of civil anti-harassment petitions in cases where a district court judge makes findings of fact and conclusions of law showing that meritorious reasons exist for the transfer. A typical reason for such transfer is when the respondent to the action is under 18 years of age, thus requiring the appointment of a guardian and the use of services typically offered by superior court.

**Summary of Bill:** The proposed amendment requires the automatic transfer of civil anti-harassment petition cases to superior court when it is shown that the respondent is under 18 years of age.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Testimony For:** Court time is consumed doing findings of fact and conclusions of law in order to transfer civil anti-harassment petitions to superior court. This bill will promote court efficiency.

**Testimony Against:** None.

**Testified:** Judge Robert McBeth, District and Municipal Court Judges Assn.