

HB 2055 -- CHILD CUSTODY ORDERS

SPONSOR: Swan

This bill changes the laws regarding child custody orders. The bill requires the court, in determining the allocation of periods of physical custody, to presume that a parenting plan that equalizes to the highest degree the amount of time the child may spend with each parent is in the best interest of the child. The State Courts Administrator must modify the Form 68-A Parenting Plan, also known as "Schedule J," to reflect these provisions and to include that the default parenting plan must include alternating weeks with each parent, unless the parents submit an alternative parenting plan. If the court finds a parent has violated an order for custody, visitation, or third-party custody without good cause for a second or subsequent time, the court may deem such behavior as a material change of circumstances and may order a modification to the joint custody order to award primary custody of the child to the aggrieved party. The bill requires the court to hold an expedited hearing on the modification of a prior custody decree upon the motion of a parent and for good cause shown.