

HB 194 -- MAINTENANCE ORDERS

SPONSOR: Neely

This bill modifies provisions related to maintenance a court may grant to either spouse by specifying that it can be bridge-the-gap, rehabilitative, or durational, based upon the length of the marriage.

The bill defines the duration of a marriage based upon the day of the marriage to the date of filing for divorce or legal separation. The duration of a marriage is defined as:

- 1) A short-term marriage which has a duration of less than seven years and;
- 2) A moderate-term marriage which has a duration of seven years but less than 17 years; or
- 3) A long-term marriage which has a duration of 17 years or more and either party may be awarded durational maintenance for a period not to exceed 10 years, based upon the years.

This bill specifies that either party may be awarded bridge-the-gap maintenance when leaving a short-term marriage to allow the party to make a transition from being married to being single; rehabilitative maintenance when leaving a short-term or moderate-term marriage to establish the capacity for self-support, as specified; or durational maintenance to provide for the needs and necessities of life as they were established during a moderate-term or long-term marriage.

The bill sets time limits for how many years each type of maintenance may be granted.

An order awarding maintenance is subject to modification or termination if it can be shown that the recipient and another person have entered into a mutually supportive relationship that is the functional equivalent of a marriage that has existed for at least 12 months of an 18-month period.

This bill is the same as HB 1969 (2018).