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H.417

Introduced by Representatives Christie of Hartford and LaLonde of South

Burlington

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Court procedure; conduct of trial; six-person juries in civil
proceedings

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require that
juries in civil proceedings be composed of six persons.

An act relating to requiring six-person juries in civil proceedings

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 12 V.S.A. § 1950 is added to read:

§ 1950. CIVIL ACTIONS; JURIES OF SIX REQUIRED

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law or rule, in civil proceedings
where there is a right to trial by jury, the jury shall consist of six persons.

(b) The following provisions shall apply to trials by jury in civil
proceedings:

(1) Each party shall be entitled to three peremptory challenges.

1 (2) The court may order that the jury include not more than two alternate
2 jurors. Each party shall be entitled to one additional peremptory challenge
3 against an alternate juror.

4 (3) The jury verdict shall be unanimous unless the parties stipulate
5 otherwise.

6 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

7 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2021.