



Minnesota  
State Bar  
Association

## HF2895: SPOUSAL MAINTENANCE REFORM

### BACKGROUND

**Uncertainty:** Because Minnesota’s current spousal maintenance statute is broad and vague, it creates uncertainty and a wide range of outcomes that are extremely “judge dependent.” This makes it more difficult for parties to reach agreements on their own.

**Clarity:** This bill reforms Minnesota’s spousal maintenance laws to provide clearer guidelines that will improve fairness, certainty, and predictability in divorce cases involving spousal maintenance.

**Result:** The overall goals of this bill are to achieve equity, fairness, and flexibility by helping a spouse with financial need become self-sufficient, and by providing a paying spouse with opportunities for relief as circumstances change.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Creates factors for determining the amount and duration of maintenance.
- Clarifies which assets are considered in setting maintenance.
- Provides thorough guidance related to retirement, a major concern for many individuals.
- Addresses temporary orders for spouses who have an immediate and unexpected financial need while a dissolution is pending. Financial equity from the start of the process will inspire fair settlement, less litigation, and less financial abuse.