

# House Research Act Summary

**CHAPTER:** 471

**SESSION:** 2000 Regular Session

**TOPIC:** Domestic Abuse

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## Overview

This act (1) lengthens the amount of time an individual has to bring a civil action for domestic abuse and (2) authorizes creation of a joint domestic abuse prosecution unit by the Ramsey County Attorney and St. Paul City Attorney.

- 1 **Statute of limitation.** Provides a six year statute of limitations for assault, battery, false imprisonment, or other tort, resulting in personal injury, if the conduct meets the definition of domestic abuse in the order for protection act. Under prior law, a two year limitation applied to such suits.
- 2 **Two or three year limitations.** Conforming amendment to a statute with various limitation periods.
- 3 **Joint domestic abuse prosecution unit.** Authorizes a pilot project to develop a joint domestic abuse prosecution unit between the Ramsey County attorney's office and the St. Paul city attorney's office. Specifies the unit would include four cross-deputized city and county attorneys, have authority to prosecute misdemeanors, gross misdemeanors, and felonies, and coordinate activities with child protection attorneys. Establishes goals for the project and requires that if created, the unit would report results to the legislature and share results with other counties and cities. Provides for a progress report January 15, 2001, and a final report one year after that date.
- 4 **Effective date.** Sections 1 and 2 are effective August 1, 2000, and apply to causes of action arising on or after that date.