

Bill No.: SF0073

Effective: 7/1/2015

LSO No.: 15LSO-0342

Enrolled Act No.: SEA 38

Chapter No.: 111

Prime Sponsor: Ross

Catch Title: Forcible entry and detainer amendments.

Subject: Amends forcible entry and detainer procedures to allow a defendant to present a defense without filing an answer to the complaint.

Summary/Major Elements:

- Under current law, a defendant in a forcible entry and detainer action may only present a full defense if he has filed an answer to the plaintiff's complaint. If no answer is filed by the defendant, he is only allowed to cross-examine plaintiff's witnesses.
- This bill:
 - Eliminates the requirement that a defendant must file an answer to plaintiff's complaint to be allowed to present a full defense, including introduction of evidence and cross examination of the plaintiff's witnesses;
 - Allows each party in a forcible entry and detainer action to amend any complaint or answer the party files in that action.

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