

**ARKANSAS SENATE**  
91st General Assembly - Regular Session, 2017  
**Amendment Form**

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**Subtitle of House Bill No. 1361**

TO AMEND THE GROUNDS FOR DIVORCE OR SEPARATION UNDER THE COVENANT MARRIAGE  
ACT OF 2001; AND TO ADD MENTAL ABUSE AS A GROUNDS FOR DIVORCE AND SEPARATION  
UNDER THE COVENANT MARRIAGE ACT OF 2001.

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**Amendment No. 1 to House Bill No. 1361**

Amend House Bill No. 1361 as originally introduced:

Add Senator Irvin as a cosponsor of the bill

AND

Add Representatives B. Smith, Baltz, Beck, Bentley, Brown, Burch, Dalby, Drown, Fortner, Henderson, Lemons, Lundstrum, Payton, Rushing, Sorvillo, Sturch, Vaught, and Watson as cosponsors of the bill

AND

Page 1, line 10, delete "MENTAL" and substitute "EMOTIONAL"

AND

Page 1, line 18, delete "MENTAL" and substitute "EMOTIONAL"

AND

Immediately following the enacting clause, add a section to read as follows:

"SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 9-11-802, concerning definitions under the Covenant Marriage Act of 2001, is amended to add an additional subdivision to read as follows:

(3) "Emotional abuse" means an ongoing pattern or cycle of nonphysical behavior or attitude that controls, intimidates, subjugates, demeans, punishes, or isolates another person by using degradation, humiliation, or fear and that results in depression or overwhelming feelings of worthlessness, hopelessness, and poor physical or mental health by the victim."

AND



Page 1, line 27, delete "mentally" and substitute "emotionally"

AND

Page 1, line 32, delete "mentally" and substitute "emotionally"

AND

Appropriately renumber the sections of the bill

The Amendment was read the first time, rules suspended and read the second time and \_\_\_\_\_

By: Senator Irvin

JNL/JNL - 03-14-2017 14:12:50

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Secretary