

1 S.178

2 Introduced by Senator Sears

3 Referred to Committee on Judiciary

4 Date: January 4, 2022

5 Subject: Court proceedings; conduct of trial; civil jury verdict; supermajority  
6 required

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes that, unless the  
8 parties stipulate otherwise, a jury verdict or finding in a civil trial shall be  
9 rendered by a supermajority of at least two-thirds of the jurors.

10 An act relating to supermajority verdicts in civil trials

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

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

13 § 1950. VERDICT; TWO-THIRDS SUPERMAJORITY REQUIRED

14 Unless the parties stipulate otherwise, a verdict or finding agreed to by at  
15 least two-thirds of the total number of jurors serving on a jury in a civil trial  
16 shall be taken as the verdict or finding of the jury.

17 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

18 ~~This act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.~~

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

*§ 1950. VERDICT; EIGHTY PERCENT SUPERMAJORITY REQUIRED*

*Unless the parties stipulate otherwise, a verdict or finding agreed to by at least eighty percent of the total number of jurors serving on a jury in a civil trial shall be taken as the verdict or finding of the jury.*

*Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE*

*This act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.*