## **DIGEST**

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HB 200 Original

2022 Regular Session

Brown

**Abstract:** Relative to misdemeanor prosecutions, requires the court to allow a plea of not guilty by the filing of a sworn affidavit when a defendant is absent.

<u>Present law</u> requires a plea of not guilty of a misdemeanor to be entered through counsel of record and in the absence of the defendant by the filing of a sworn affidavit prior to the scheduled arraignment date.

<u>Proposed law</u> amends <u>present law</u> to provide that a plea of not guilty of a misdemeanor may be allowed to be entered through counsel of record. Further provides that in the absence of the defendant, such plea shall be allowed by the filing of a sworn affidavit prior to the scheduled arraignment date.

(Amends C.Cr.P. Art. 833(B))