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## DIGEST

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HB 200 Engrossed

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.

Present law 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.

Proposed law amends present law to provide that a plea of not guilty of a misdemeanor may always be allowed to be entered through counsel of record in the absence of the defendant and requires the court to allow such plea by the filing of a sworn affidavit prior to the scheduled arraignment date.

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

### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice to the original bill:

1. Provide that a plea of not guilty of a misdemeanor may always be entered through counsel of record in the absence of the defendant and shall be allowed by the filing of a sworn affidavit prior to the scheduled arraignment date.