



## 2011 ASSEMBLY BILL 600

February 21, 2012 – Introduced by Representatives T. LARSON, SPANBAUER, ENDSLEY and CRAIG, cosponsored by Senator ZIPPERER. Referred to Committee on Judiciary and Ethics.

1     **AN ACT** *to renumber and amend* 806.02 (1); *to amend* 802.07 (5), 806.02 (2),  
2           806.02 (3), 806.02 (4) and 806.02 (5); and *to create* 806.02 (1d) of the statutes;  
3           **relating to:** default judgments in certain civil claims, counterclaims, and cross  
4           claims.

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### *Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

Under current law, a plaintiff who files a civil lawsuit against a defendant may obtain a default judgment against the defendant if, after being properly served with the litigation papers, the defendant fails to respond properly and within the appropriate time. When entering a default judgment against a defendant, the court is required to determine that the defendant was properly served, that the court has proper jurisdiction over the defendant, that the defendant did not join any issue of law or fact, and that the time for joining an issue has expired. Upon making these determinations and entering a default judgment against the defendant, the court may require the plaintiff to submit proof of his or her damages and may award such damages to the plaintiff.

Under current law, a defendant in a civil lawsuit may file a counterclaim against the plaintiff and, under certain circumstances, a plaintiff or a defendant may declare a cross claim against a coparty to a civil action.

Under this bill, a default judgment may be entered against a counterdefendant or cross defendant in the same manner and upon the same showings as may be entered against a defendant under current law.

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*The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:*

1           **SECTION 1.** 802.07 (5) of the statutes is amended to read:

2           802.07 (5) SEPARATE TRIALS; SEPARATE JUDGMENTS. If the court orders separate  
3 trials as provided in s. 805.05 (2), judgment on a counterclaim or cross claim may be  
4 rendered in accordance with s. 806.01 (2) or 806.02 when the court has jurisdiction  
5 so to do, even if the claims of the opposing party have been dismissed or otherwise  
6 disposed of.

7           **SECTION 2.** 806.02 (1) of the statutes is renumbered 806.02 (1m) and amended  
8 to read:

9           806.02 (1m) A default judgment may be rendered as provided in this subsection  
10 and subs. ~~(1)~~ (2) to (4) if no issue of law or fact has been joined and if the time for  
11 joining issue has expired. Any defendant, counterdefendant, or cross defendant  
12 appearing in an action shall be entitled to notice of motion for judgment.

13           **SECTION 3.** 806.02 (1d) of the statutes is created to read:

14           806.02 (1d) In this section:

15           (a) "Counterdefendant" means a person against whom a counterclaim is filed  
16 pursuant to s. 802.07 (1), (2), or (4).

17           (b) "Cross defendant" means a person against whom a cross claim is filed  
18 pursuant to s. 802.07 (3) or (4).

19           **SECTION 4.** 806.02 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

20           806.02 (2) After filing the complaint and proof of service of the summons on one  
21 or more of the defendants, counterdefendants, or cross defendants and an affidavit  
22 that the defendant, counterdefendant, or cross defendant is in default for failure to  
23 join issue, the plaintiff, counterclaimant, or cross claimant may move for judgment

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1 according to the demand of the complaint, counterclaim, or cross claim. If the  
2 amount of money sought was excluded from the demand for judgment, as required  
3 under s. 802.02 (1m), the court shall require the plaintiff, counterclaimant, or cross  
4 claimant to specify the amount of money claimed and provide that information to the  
5 court and to the other parties prior to the court rendering judgment. If proof of any  
6 fact is necessary for the court to give judgment, the court shall receive the proof.

7 **SECTION 5.** 806.02 (3) of the statutes is amended to read:

8 806.02 (3) If a defendant, counterdefendant, or cross defendant fails to appear  
9 in an action within the time fixed in s. 801.09 the court shall, before entering a  
10 judgment against such defendant, counterdefendant, or cross defendant, require  
11 proof of service of the summons in the manner required by s. 801.10 and, in addition,  
12 shall require further proof as follows:

13 (a) Where a personal claim is made against the defendant, counterdefendant,  
14 or cross defendant, the court shall require proof by affidavit or other evidence, to be  
15 made and filed, of the existence of any fact not shown by the complaint, counterclaim,  
16 or cross claim which is needed to establish grounds for personal jurisdiction over the  
17 defendant, counterdefendant, or cross defendant. The court may require such  
18 additional proof as the interests of justice require.

19 (b) Where no personal claim is made against the defendant, counterdefendant,  
20 or cross defendant, the court shall require such proofs, by affidavit or otherwise, as  
21 are necessary to show the court's jurisdiction has been invoked over the status,  
22 property, or thing which is the subject of the action. The court may require such  
23 additional proof as the interests of justice require.

24 **SECTION 6.** 806.02 (4) of the statutes is amended to read:

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1           806.02 (4) In an action on express contract for recovery of a liquidated amount  
2 of money only, the plaintiff, counterclaimant, or cross claimant may file with the  
3 clerk proof of personal service of the summons on one or more of the defendants,  
4 counterdefendants, or cross defendants and an affidavit that the defendant,  
5 counterdefendant, or cross defendant is in default for failure to join issue. The clerk  
6 shall render and enter judgment against the defendants, counterdefendants, or cross  
7 defendants who are in default for the amount demanded in the complaint. Leaving  
8 the summons at the abode of a defendant, counterdefendant, or cross defendant is  
9 not personal service within the meaning of this subsection.

10           **SECTION 7.** 806.02 (5) of the statutes is amended to read:

11           806.02 (5) A default judgment may be rendered against any defendant,  
12 counterdefendant, or cross defendant who has appeared in the action but who fails  
13 to appear at trial. If proof of any fact is necessary for the court to render judgment,  
14 the court shall receive the proof.

15   **(END)**