

2019 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 118

BY SENATOR MILKOVICH

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

CIVIL PROCEDURE. Provides right of an oral argument in contradictory proceedings.  
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AN ACT

To enact Code of Civil Procedure Art. 1636.1, relative to contradictory hearings in civil proceedings; to provide for the right to present oral arguments; to provide with respect to reasonable control of oral argument by the court, waiver or denial of oral argument, and grounds for setting aside a judgment obtained in violation of requirements; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. Code of Civil Procedure Art. 1636.1 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

Art. 1636.1. Contradictory hearings; oral arguments

A. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, a party shall have the right to present oral argument, in addition to written briefs, at all contradictory hearings in civil proceedings. Oral argument may be waived only if all parties agree in writing to such waiver, and may be denied by the court to a party if their pleadings or documents in connection with the contradictory hearing have not been timely filed.

B. Reasonable control over oral argument presented under this Article may be exercised by the court.

1                    **C. The obtaining of a judgment in violation of this Article shall be**  
 2                    **mandatory grounds for setting aside the judgment and seeking a new hearing,**  
 3                    **by motion within thirty days after the clerk has mailed, or the sheriff has**  
 4                    **served, the notice of judgment as required by Article 1913.**

5                    Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
 6                    signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
 7                    by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
 8                    vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become  
 9                    effective on the day following such approval.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
 of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Xavier I. Alexander.

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	DIGEST	
SB 118 Original	2019 Regular Session	Milkovich

Proposed law provides that notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, a party shall have the right to present oral argument, in addition to written briefs, at all contradictory hearings in civil cases. Further provides that oral argument may be waived only if all parties agree in writing to such waiver, and may be denied by the court to a party if their pleadings or documents in connection with the contradictory hearing have not been timely filed.

Proposed law also provides that reasonable control over argument presented under proposed law may be exercised by the court.

Proposed law further provides that the obtaining of a judgment in violation of proposed law shall be mandatory grounds for setting aside the judgment and seeking a new hearing, by motion brought within 30 days after the clerk has mailed, or sheriff has served, the notice of judgment as required by law.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds C.C.P. Art. 1636.1)