

**Public Policy Position  
HB 4182**

The Family Law Section is a voluntary membership section of the State Bar of Michigan, comprised of 2,699 members. The Family Law Section is not the State Bar of Michigan and the position expressed herein is that of the Family Law Section only and not the State Bar of Michigan. To date, the State Bar does not have a position on this item.

The Family Law Section has a public policy decision-making body with 21 members. On June 5, 2021, the Section adopted its position after a discussion and vote at a scheduled meeting. 20 members voted in favor of the Section's position, 0 members voted against this position, 0 members abstained, 1 member did not vote.

**Support with Recommended Amendments**

**Explanation:**

The Family Law Section supports including abuse of a step-sibling as a basis for parental termination, but has concerns regarding the placement provision in Section 14(a), which should more clearly and heavily favor keeping step-siblings together and place the obligation on the court to determine if separation of step-siblings may be separate, rather than the supervising agency as currently drafted. Therefore, the Section supports the bill, but with an amendment replacing section 14(a) with the following: "Siblings removed from their home, who are entering foster care at or near the same time, must be placed in the same foster care, kinship guardianship, or adoptive placement, unless the court determines that 1 or more of the following apply:". Moreover, the Family Law Section would oppose this bill without the recommended amendment stated herein.

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