

**Public Policy Position
HB 4329**

The Family Law Section is a voluntary membership section of the State Bar of Michigan, comprised of 2,453 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 November 2, 2019, the Section adopted its position after a discussion and vote at a scheduled meeting. 19 members voted in favor of the Section's position on HB 4329, 0 members voted against this position, 1 member abstained, 1 member did not vote.

Support with Recommended Amendments**Explanation:**

Bill would allow court reporters to charge up to \$3.50 per original page for transcripts and 75 cents per page for copies. The Family Law Section would support the bill if it was amended to allow court reporters to charge and receive \$3.50 per page for an original transcript, but electronic copies should be set at a flat fee of \$10 per volume, and printed copies at 75 cents per page.

The costs for copies seemed excessive since most copies of transcripts are sent electronically and there are no actual paper copies being produced, making it difficult to justify the proposed charge of 75 cents per page. The 30 cent per page copy rate was likely enacted before electronic copies were an option and the statute should be amended to reflect the current technology available.

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