

Public Policy Position
HB 4547

The Family Law Section is a voluntary membership section of the State Bar of Michigan, comprised of 2,701 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 3, 2023, the Section adopted its position after a discussion and vote at a scheduled meeting. 11 members voted in favor of the Section's position, 0 members voted against this position, 0 members abstained, 10 members did not vote.

Support with Recommended Amendments

Explanation:

A bill increasing the fee for a marriage license from \$20 to \$50 and other general language updates. It was noted that the bill would need further amendments based on the child marriage bills, if passed, as it still contains language as to parents or legal guardians of minors to be married. Arguments in support of the bill included that the fee likely hasn't been increased in many years, and a portion of the fees collected (currently \$15 of the \$20) are allocated to family counseling services, which includes counseling for domestic violence and child abuse. However the bill as written fails to provide for any increase to such family counseling services. FLS recommends that the bill be amended to provide that the portion of the collected fee allocated to family counseling services be increased proportionately to the overall increased fee, i.e., 75% of the total fee collected.

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