

**Public Policy Position
HB 5319**

The Family Law Section is a voluntary membership section of the State Bar of Michigan, comprised of 2,616 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 December 14, 2023, the Section adopted its position after a discussion and vote at a scheduled meeting. 17 members voted in favor of the Section's position, 0 members voted against this position, 0 members abstained, 4 members did not vote.

Support with Recommended Amendments

Explanation:

Family Law Section supports the addition of "celebrants or officiants of a secular organization" as authorized to solemnize marriages. In addition, the Section recommends the addition of "circuit court judges" as individuals authorized to solemnize marriages. Circuit court judges are almost exclusively authorized to dissolve a marriage, which is ironic that they cannot currently solemnize marriages.

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