

FAMILY LAW SECTION
Public Policy Position
HB 5359

The Family Law Section is a voluntary membership section of the State Bar of Michigan, comprised of 2,888 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 January 20, 2018, the Section adopted its position after discussion and vote at a scheduled meeting. 19 members voted in favor of the Section's position on HB 5359, 0 members voted against this position, 0 members abstained, 2 members did not vote.

The Family Law Section Supports HB 5359.

Explanation:

The purpose of the bill is to require foster children to undergo psychiatric evaluation before being placed for adoption to alert adoptive parents to potential problems. The view is that psychiatric evaluation can prevent disastrous situations that could have been identified before the adoption and will prevent re-homing. This is for foster case adoptions only, not step-children or agency/direct placement adoptions.

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