

FAMILY LAW SECTION

Respectfully submits the following position on:

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SB 0255

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The Family Law Section is not the State Bar of Michigan itself, but rather a Section which members of the State Bar choose voluntarily to join, based on common professional interest.

The position expressed is that of the Family Law Section only and is not the position of the State Bar of Michigan.

To date, the State Bar does not have a position on this matter.

The total membership of the Family Law Section is 3,047.

The position was adopted after discussion and vote at a scheduled meeting. The number of members in the decision-making body is 21. The number who voted in favor to this position was 15. The number who voted opposed to this position was 0. The number who abstained from voting was 0.

Report on Public Policy Position

Name of section:

Family Law Section

Contact person:

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Bill Number:

[SB 0255](#) (Warren) Civil rights; housing discrimination; housing discrimination for domestic violence victims; prohibit. Amends title & sec. 502 of [1976 PA 453](#) (MCL [37.2502](#)).

Date position was adopted:

June 6, 2015

Process used to take the ideological position:

Position adopted after discussion and vote at a scheduled meeting.

Number of members in the decision-making body:

21

Number who voted in favor and opposed to the position:

15 Voted for position

0 Voted against position

0 Abstained from vote

6 Did not vote (absent)

Position:

Support with recommended amendments

Explanation of the position, including any recommended amendments:

SB 255 is the Senate version of HB 4411, which we previously supported. It prohibits discrimination in real estate transactions (which would include leases and rentals) against victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking. The bill cites the statutory definitions of these offenses. Victims need this protection because some landlords "don't want trouble" and will refuse to lease to victims. However, "marital status" was deleted from one section of this bill and not another, suggesting a drafting error. The Family Law Section supports this bill with amendment to clarify that the Act continues to include "marital status" as a protected class.

The text of any legislation, court rule, or administrative regulation that is the subject of or referenced in this report.

<http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?2015-SB-0255>