

**Public Policy Position
SB 257**

The Family Law Section is a voluntary membership section of the State Bar of Michigan, comprised of 2,690 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. The State Bar's position is to oppose SB 0257. The Bar strongly supports courtroom transparency, but believes that this issue is properly addressed by the Court, not the Legislature. The State Bar stands ready to partner with the Court to develop an appropriate, uniform rule governing access to court recordings.

The Family Law Section has a public policy decision-making body with 21 members. On May 6, 2023, the Section adopted its position after a discussion and vote at a scheduled meeting. 16 members voted in favor of the Section's position, 0 members voted against this position, 1 member abstained, 4 members did not vote.

Oppose**Explanation:**

Although this bill would promote public access and public review of court proceedings, it would also enable disgruntled litigants to edit the videos to misrepresent proceedings and spread sensitive information to public, which may have a chilling effect on valid claims or defenses. Select parts of videos could be posted on social media to embarrass parties, witnesses, or their families. The potential for abuse outweighs the potential benefits.

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