

CRIMINAL JURISPRUDENCE & PRACTICE COMMITTEE  
Respectfully submits the following position on:

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HB 4694 – HB 4697

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The Criminal Jurisprudence & Practice Committee is comprised of members appointed by the President of the State Bar of Michigan.

The position expressed is that of the Criminal Jurisprudence & Practice Committee. The State Bar of Michigan has authorized the Criminal Jurisprudence & Practice Committee to advocate its position.

The State Bar of Michigan's position on this matter is to support the bills, but express the concern as to the success of the program without providing funding.

The total membership of the Criminal Jurisprudence & Practice Committee is 14.

The position was adopted after discussion and vote at a scheduled meeting. The number of members in the decision-making body is 14. The number who voted in favor to this position was 10. The number who voted opposed to this position was 0.

## Report on Public Policy Position

### Name of Committee:

Criminal Jurisprudence and Practice

### Contact persons:

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### Bill Numbers:

[HB 4694](#) (Cotter) Courts; circuit court; mental health court; create.

[HB 4695](#) (Haines) Courts; circuit court; mental health court; create.

[HB 4696](#) (Walsh) Courts; circuit court; mental health court; create.

[HB 4697](#) (O'Brien) Courts; circuit court; mental health court; create.

### Date position was adopted:

June 20, 2013

### 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:

14

### Number who voted in favor and opposed to the position:

10 Voted for position

0 Voted against position

0 Abstained from vote

4 Did not vote

### Position:

Support

### Explanation of the position, including any recommended amendments:

The committee voted unanimously to support the bills to create mental health courts.

The committee agreed that it is better to treat mental health issues rather than merely incarcerate the individual. There were some questions as to repeat-participation and definition of mental illnesses referred to in the bill, but the committee voted to support the bills.

**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?2013-HB-4694>

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**FOR LEGISLATIVE ISSUES ONLY:**

**This position falls within the following Keller-permissible category:**

- The regulation and discipline of attorneys**
- ✓ **The improvement of the functioning of the courts**
- The availability of legal services to society**
- The regulation of attorney trust accounts**
- The regulation of the legal profession, including the education, the ethics, the competency, and the integrity of the profession.**

**Keller-permissible explanation:**

These bills would affect the functioning of the court in their creation of a new problem-solving court, focusing on those individuals in the system with mental illness.