



## Report on Public Policy Position

**Name of Section:**

Family Law Section

**Contact Person:**

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**Bill Number:**

**HB 6251** (Polidori) Human services; children's services; procedure for placement of children in a foster home; expand to give special consideration to relatives and to include consideration of religion. Amends sec. 4a of 1994 PA 203 (MCL 722.954a) & adds sec. 4e.

**Date position was adopted:**

November 4, 2006

**Process used to take the ideological position:**

Vote of Council members at the meeting

**Number of members in the decision-making body:**

21

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

12-1

**Position:**

The Family Law Section supports the concept of this bill. The bill requires that if a child has been removed from a home, the supervising agency give preference to placement with the child's relatives, so long as they are fit and willing to accept the child. The agency shall also give preference to homes that share the religion of the child's immediate family. These seem to be appropriate considerations in child placement. The Council was concerned that the bill would give no discretion to the supervising agency, and recommended that the second sentence of 4E(1) be eliminated.

**The text (may be provided by hyperlink) of any legislation, court rule, or administrative regulation that is the subject of or referenced in this report:**

<http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?2006-HB-6251>