



## Report on Public Policy Position

**Name of Section:**

Family Law Section

**Contact Person:**

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**Bill Number:**

**HB 6280** (Schuitmaker) Probate; other; dower rights; repeal. Creates new act.

**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 opposes HB 6280, which is one of several bills that would abolish dower. The Council finds that dower fills a useful purpose by requiring that a spouse have notice of any real estate transactions by the other spouse. This prevents fraud and dissipation of marital assets. The Council supported the idea of making dower gender neutral. The Council opposes this bill, and suggests that the sponsors seek to make dower gender neutral.

**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-6280>