



## Report on Public Policy Position

**Name of Section:**

Family Law Section

**Contact Person:**

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**Bill Number:**

**HB 6417** (Zelenko) Family law; marriage and divorce; prerequisites for issuance of marriage license; require previously married individuals to present a final divorce decree. Amends sec. 3 of 1887 PA 128 (MCL 551.103).

**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:**

13-0

**Position:**

HB 6417 requires persons applying for a marriage license to file a sworn statement indicating whether either party has been previously married. If so, the formerly married person must provide the County Clerk with a copy of their Judgment of Divorce. The purpose is to discourage bigamy. Marriage applicants can still lie on their sworn statement regarding previous marriages, but their intended may get suspicious if they do. The Council supports this bill, but suggests that the requirement of providing a judgment of divorce should also allow the production of a death certificate or an annulment.

**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-6417>