



Report on Public Policy Position

Name of Section:

Family Law Section

Contact Person:

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Bill Number:

HB 6452 (Pearce) Family law; parenting time; court appointed electronic visitation; allow. Amends sec. 7a of 1970 PA 91 (MCL 722.27a).

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 HB 6452 in concept. This bill would allow a court to order electronic parenting time to supplement regular parenting time. This is already within the court's power, but this bill helps bring the possibility to the court's attention. The standards seem appropriate, including the provision that the court may require the requesting parent to pay for the equipment and service necessary to accomplish the electronic parenting time. Several Council members raised concerns about overriding the other parent's wish to restrict internet access in their home, and invasion of privacy issues if webcam access is ordered. The Council supports this bill, and suggests that these issues be addressed as well.

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-6452>