



Report on Public Policy Position

Name of Section:

Family Law Section

Contact Person:

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Bill Number:

HB 4174 (Pearce) Family law; parenting time; electronic visitation; allow court to order for parents and grandparents. Amends secs. 7a, 7b & 11 of 1970 PA 91 (MCL 722.27a et seq.).

Date position was adopted:

May 5, 2007

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:

21

Number who voted in favor and opposed to the position:

13 Voted for position

0 Voted against position

0 Abstained from vote

8 Did not vote

Position:

Support with recommended amendments

Explanation of the position, including any recommended amendments:

HB 4174 is a reintroduction of last year's Electronic Parenting Time bill, HB 6452, which we supported in concept last year with some suggested amendments. This year's version addressed one of our concerns, that a parent who did not wish to have internet available in their home should not be forced to do so. Section 14 provides that Electronic Parenting Time would only be ordered if both parents have the necessary facilities for it. This year's version also allows Electronic Grandparenting Time, under the same conditions that would warrant Grandparenting time. This seemed appropriate. The last sentence of this version would not allow a court to consider the availability of Electronic Parenting Time in deciding a parent's request to change a child's domicile outside the 100 mile limitation. This is unduly restrictive. The Council opposed this provision, and recommends that the last sentence be dropped. The Council supports this bill as long as the last sentence of the bill is removed.

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?2007-HB-4174>