

FAMILY LAW SECTION
Respectfully submits the following position on:

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HB 5766

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The Family Law Section is not the State Bar of Michigan itself, but rather a Section which members of the State Bar choose voluntarily to join, based on common professional interest.

The position expressed is that of the Family Law Section only and is not the position of the State Bar of Michigan.

To date, the State Bar does not have a position on this matter.

The total membership of the Family Law Section is 2,481.

The position was adopted after discussion and vote at a scheduled meeting. The number of members in the decision-making body is 21. The number who voted in favor to this position was 20. The number who voted opposed to this position was 0.

Report on Public Policy Position

Name of section:

Family Law Section

Contact person:

Kent Weichmann

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Bill Number:

[HB 5766](#) (Cavanagh) Family law; marriage and divorce; name change upon solemnization of marriage; make gender-neutral. Creates new act.

Date position was adopted:

September 20, 2012

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:

20 Voted for position

0 Voted against position

0 Abstained from vote

1 Did not vote

Position:

Support

Explanation of the position, including any recommended amendments:

HB 5766, the Michigan name equality act, allows either party to a marriage to change their middle or last by entering the new name into the spaces provided in the marriage license. The new middle or last name may be any combination of birth name or current names of either spouse. A marriage is an event in which people commonly take on new last names, without the necessity of applying for a name change. This bill allows the spouses flexibility to be gender neutral in deciding their married names. The Family Law Section supports this bill.

The text of any legislation, court rule, or administrative regulation that is the subject of or referenced in this report.

<http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?2012-HB-5766>