

Report on Public Policy Position

Name of section:

Family Law Section

Contact person:

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Bill Number:

[HB 4704](#) (Byrnes) Family law; marriage and divorce; change of name procedure whenever decree of divorce is granted; revise to make gender neutral. Amends title & sec. 1 of [1905 PA 299](#) (MCL [552.391](#)).

Date position was adopted:

April 4, 2009

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:

15 Voted for position

0 Voted against position

0 Abstained from vote

6 Did not vote

Position:

Support

Explanation of the position, including any recommended amendments:

HB 4704 is a reintroduction of a bill that the Family Law Section previously supported. It allows husbands to obtain a restoration or change of name upon divorce under the same conditions that wives obtain these changes. This makes the statute gender neutral and provides relief to couples who hyphenated their last names at marriage. 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?2009-HB-4704>