

**Public Policy Position
HB 4844**

The Children's Law Section is a voluntary membership section of the State Bar of Michigan, comprised of 504 members. The Children's Law Section is not the State Bar of Michigan and the position expressed herein is that of the Children's Law Section only and not the State Bar of Michigan. To date, the State Bar does not have a position on this item.

The Children's Law Section has a public policy decision-making body with 19 members. On October 16, 2025, the Section adopted its position after a discussion and vote at a scheduled meeting. 12 members voted in favor of the Section's position, 0 members voted against this position, 1 member abstained, 6 members did not vote.

Oppose**Explanation:**

The Children's Law Section Council opposes HB 4844. The Council found the language of the bill to be confusing and could not even agree on how the proposed addition to MCL 712A.2(b) would apply. Some council members thought it was in response to *In re Lange* and that it applied to parents who refused to take custody of their child after release from mental health treatment. Other council members thought that it was expanding jurisdiction over parents who had lost physical and/or legal custody in domestic relations proceedings. Due to this wide disagreement on what the language would accomplish or how it would apply to child protective proceedings, the Council could not support this amendment.

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