

**Public Policy Position
SB 18**

The Children's Law Section is a voluntary membership section of the State Bar of Michigan, comprised of 490 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 March 20, 2025, the Section adopted its position after a discussion and vote at a scheduled meeting. 13 members voted in favor of the Section's position, 0 members voted against this position, 2 members abstained, 4 members did not vote.

**Support In Concept, Oppose As Drafted,
Recommend Working With Sponsor To Amend Bill****Explanation:**

The Children's Law Section supports the concept of requiring DHHS to seek out and apply for any benefits to which a foster child may be entitled. However, the bill as drafted does not provide sufficient information about how funds DHHS receives on behalf of children will be preserved or used to ensure that there is no waste. Similarly, the bill provides no safety mechanism to ensure that parents cannot use children's funds for personal purposes when the funds revert to the parents upon reunification. We believe that the bill can be improved to better protect children's interests, and we support working with the sponsor of the bill to implement such protections.

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