SBM State Bar of Michigan | FAMILY LAW SECTION

Public Policy Position
HB 6423

The Family Law Section is a voluntary membership section of the State Bar of Michigan, comprised of 2,489 members. The Family Law Section is not the State Bar of Michigan and the position expressed herein is that of the Family Law Section only and not the State Bar of Michigan. To date, the State Bar does not have a position on this item.

The Family Law Section has a public policy decision-making body with 21 members. On October 17, 2026, 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, 6 members did not vote.

Support

Explanation:
The Family Law Section supports HB 6423. The current lack of definition of "father" has led to a default to a child's legal father, which puts adoption proceedings in a sort of legal limbo when the father is only putative. By adding a definition of "putative father" and allowing for termination of his rights as part of a step-parent adoption proceeding, these proceedings would become more efficient, and children would be given permanency more quickly without the administrative burden of establishing someone as the legal father before immediately moving to terminate his parental rights. This bill promotes the best interests of children in step-parent adoptions.

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