

FAMILY LAW SECTION

Respectfully submits the following position on:

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HB 4133

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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 3,086.

The position was adopted after a discussion and vote at a scheduled meeting. The number of members in the decision-making body is 21. The number who voted in favor of this position was 19. 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 4133](#) (Irwin) Children; adoption; second parent adoption; provide for. Amends secs. 24, 41 & 51, ch. X of [1939 PA 288](#) (MCL [710.24](#) et seq.).

Date position was adopted:

March 7, 2015

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:

19 Voted for position

0 Voted against position

0 Abstained from vote

2 Did not vote (absent)

Position:

Support and Amend

Explanation of the position, including any recommended amendments:

HB 4133 allows two unmarried adults to petition to jointly adopt a child. Such petitions would still require Court approval before being granted. The Family Law Section has supported such bills in previous terms. This version adds language that would also require married couples to jointly petition, which is more restrictive than current law. There are cases where married couples may not wish to jointly petition for adoption, and this change is unwise.

The Family Law Section supports this bill with that provision deleted.

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?2015-HB-4133>