

FAMILY LAW SECTION
Respectfully submits the following position on:

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HB 4883

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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 2,481.

The position was adopted after discussion and vote at a regularly scheduled meeting. The number of members in the decision-making body is 21. The number who voted in favor to this position was 20. 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 4883](#) (MacMaster) Family law; paternity; reimbursement of confinement expenses; modify under certain circumstances. Amends sec. 2 of [1956 PA 205](#) (MCL [722.712](#)).

Date position was adopted:

September 15, 2011

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:

20 Voted for position

0 Voted against position

0 Abstained from vote

1 Did not vote

Position:

Oppose and Amend

Explanation of the position, including any recommended amendments:

HB 4883 amends the Paternity Act's confinement expense provision to require every paternity order to have a provision abating the collection of confinement expenses against a father during the time he has custody of the child. This would allow the custodial father to devote more family resources to the child. The Family Law Section felt that the goal of the bill was generally laudable, but we were concerned that restarting collection of confinement expenses would be much more difficult than stopping it, making it susceptible to collusive behavior. The Family Law Section opposes the bill as written, but would like to work with the sponsors on alternative language.

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?2011-HB-4883>