



Report on Public Policy Position

Name of Section:

Family Law Section

Contact Person:

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Bill Number:

HB 6351 (Bieda) Family law; marriage and divorce; marriage by proxy; allow. Amends sec. 9 of 1846 RS 83 (MCL 551.9). TIE BAR WITH: HB 6352'06

HB 6352 (Beida) Family law; marriage and divorce; marriage by proxy; indicate on marriage license. Amends sec. 2 of 1887 PA 128 (MCL 551.102). TIE BAR WITH: HB 6351'06

Date position was adopted:

November 4, 2006

Process used to take the ideological position:

Vote of Council members at the meeting

Number of members in the decision-making body:

21

Number who voted in favor and opposed to the position:

13-0

Position:

The Family Law Section supports HB 6351 & HB 6352 in concept, but would like to add protections to the bills. These bills would allow marriage by proxy for members of the armed forces who cannot appear at their wedding ceremony. This would allow a serviceperson to provide their significant other with benefits and insurance coverage, or legitimize a potential child. The Council's main concern was the opportunity for fraud, or change of mind after the power of attorney is signed. The Council supports this bill in concept, but wants additional protections built into the bills.

The text (may be provided by hyperlink) of any legislation, court rule, or administrative regulation that is the subject of or referenced in this report:

<http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?2006-HB-6351>

<http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?2006-HB-6352>