

Report on Public Policy Position

Name of section:

Family Law Section

Contact Person:

Kent Weichmann

E-mail:

weichmann@earthlink.net

Bill Number:

[HB 5598](#) (Sak) Family law; marriage and divorce; placement of pets by court in an annulment, divorce, or separate maintenance action; provide for. Amends 1846 RS 84 (MCL [552.1](#) - [552.45](#)) by adding sec. 22a.

Date position was adopted:

February 2, 2008

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:

15 Voted for position

0 Voted against position

6 Did not vote

Position:

Oppose

Explanation of the position, including any recommended amendments:

HB 5598 would require every complaint for divorce state the species of each pet of the parties, when the pet was acquired, and whether there is a written agreement for the placement of the pet. The Council felt that the current law was adequate to allow the court to appropriately award pets, and that the bill would be burdensome and place an undue focus on pet placement in every case. The Family Law Section opposes this bill.

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?2007-HB-5598>