

Report on Public Policy Position

Name of section:

Family Law Section

Contact person:

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Bill Number:

[HB 4197](#) (Espinoza) Family law; parenting time; great-grandparenting time; provide for. Amends secs. 2 & 7b of [1970 PA 91](#) (MCL [722.22](#) & [722.27b](#)).

Date position was adopted:

March 7, 2009

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

0 Abstained from vote

6 Did not vote

Position:

Oppose

Explanation of the position, including any recommended amendments:

HB 4197 would expand the grandparenting time statute to apply to great-grandparents as well. This would add eight potential contestants for a child's time, and would only be useful for great-grandparents who could not get derivative visitation through their children or grandchildren. We thought any potential benefit of gaining great-grandparenting time over the objection of the parent was outweighed by adding contestants and layers of conflict to the child's life. 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?2009-HB-4197>