

Report on Public Policy Position

Name of section:

Family Law Section

Contact person:

Kent Weichmann

E-mail:

weichmann@earthlink.net

Bill Number:

[HB 4671](#) (Lori) Family law; paternity; expedited provision of copy of acknowledgment of parentage to attorney or court clerk; provide for. Amends sec. 5 of [1996 PA 305](#) (MCL [722.1005](#)).

Date position was adopted:

April 4, 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 4671 & 4672 provide an expedited process for attorneys to obtain acknowledgments of parentage. The state or local registrar must provide, without fee, a copy of an acknowledgment of paternity or a statement that the acknowledgment does not exist to an attorney or a court clerk employee within one day of receiving a request by telephone, mail or fax. Prioritizing these requests to this extent may force the state to deprioritize more essential services. In addition, it is the parties to the acknowledgment who are entitled to their records, not any person who claims to be an attorney. The records subject to disclosure include live birth records, records of still-birth, and acknowledgments of parentage, all of which should be subject to limited disclosure. The Family Law Section opposes these bills in their present form.

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-4671>