

**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE  
ON  
FAMILIES, CHILDREN, AND SENIORS**

Wednesday, November 12, 2014            12:00 p.m.            Room 519 House Office Building

The House Standing Committee on Families, Children, and Seniors was called to order by the Chair.

Members present: Representatives Kurtz, Hooker, Denby, Outman, Kesto, Victory, Hovey-Wright, Slavens and Kosowski.

Members absent/excused: None.

Representative Kesto moved to approve the minutes of October 1, 2014. There being no objection, the motion prevailed by unanimous consent.

The Chair laid SB 1015 before the committee:

SB 1015    (Jones)                    Family law; child custody; requirement to file motion for change of custody or parenting time order when parent is called to active military duty; modify.

Sandra McCormick, representing Senator Jones' office, testified in support of his bill. Questions and discussion followed.

Mel Haga, representing the Michigan County Social Services Association, submitted a card in support of the bill, but did not wish to speak.

The Chair laid SB 981 before the committee:

SB 981    (Jones)                    Family law; marriage and divorce; contacting a party to a divorce action; prohibit for a certain time period.

Sandra McCormick, representing Senator Jones' office, testified in support of his bill. Questions and discussion followed.

Rebecca Shiemke, representing the Family Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan, testified in support of the bill. Questions and discussion followed.

Nick Balberman, representing himself, testified in opposition to the bill. Questions and discussion followed.

Ashley Lowe, representing herself, testified in support of the bill.

Merrill Gordon, representing himself as an attorney, submitted a card in opposition to the bill, but due to time constraints deferred until another time.

The following people submitted a card in support of the bill, but did not wish to speak:

Stephanie Johnson, representing the Michigan Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence.  
Mary Lovik, representing the Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board.

Mel Haga, representing the Michigan County Social Services Association, submitted a card in support of the bill, but did not wish to speak.

The Chair laid HB 5741 and HB 5775 before the committee:

HB 5741 (Howrylak) Human services; children's services; interstate compact for the placement of children; revise.

HB 5775 (Cavanagh) Children; foster care; foster child identification theft protection act; create.

Representative Cavanagh testified in support of his bill, HB 5775.

Representative Howrylak and Krista Jones, representing Representative Howrylak's office, both testified in support of HB 5741.

Daley Murray, representing the Michigan Department of Human Services, submitted a card in support of HB 5741, and was available for questions.

Stacie Bladen, representing the Michigan Department of Human Services, submitted a card in support of HB 5775, and was available for questions.

Angela Aufdemberge, representing Vista Maria, testified in support of HB 5775. Questions and discussion followed.

Jeremy Mitchell, representing the Transition to Independence Program at Wayne State University, submitted a card in support of HB 5775, but due to time constraints, was unable to speak..

Sharon Lollo, representing the Attorney General's Office, submitted a card in support of HB 5775, but did not wish to speak.

Mel Haga, representing the Michigan County Social Services Association, submitted a card in support of the bills, but did not wish to speak.

There being no further business before the committee and seeing no objection, the Chair adjourned the meeting, the time being 1:07 p.m.

**Representative Kenneth Kurtz, Chairman** \_\_\_\_\_

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