



Olds Plaza Building, 10th Floor
Lansing, Michigan 48909
Phone: 517/373-6466

SUPPORT: CHANGE OF ADDRESS

**Senate Bill 172 (Substitute H-1)
First Analysis (10-7-93)**

**Sponsor: Sen. Michael J. Bouchard
Senate Committee: Family Law, Criminal
Law, and Corrections
House Committee: Judiciary**

THE APPARENT PROBLEM:

Under Michigan court rules, a court's judgment or order awarding child or spousal support must require parties to notify the friend of the court of any change in address or employment. To promote consistency between statute and rules and to encourage better compliance with and enforcement of the requirement, some believe that statute also should require payers and payees to notify the friend of the court when they relocate.

THE CONTENT OF THE BILL:

The bill would amend the Support and Visitation Enforcement Act to require a payer or payee to report a new address in writing to the friend of the court within 21 days after moving.

MCL 552.603

HOUSE COMMITTEE ACTION:

The House Judiciary Committee adopted a substitute bill that differed from the Senate-passed version in specifying that the notification be in writing, and providing for a deadline of 21 (rather than 20) days.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

According to the Senate Fiscal Agency, the bill would have no fiscal impact on state or local government. (9-10-93)

ARGUMENTS:

For:

By promoting consistency between court rule and statute with regard to notification of the friend of the court of a support payer's or recipient's change of address, the bill could lead to better enforcement

of support obligations and more efficient delivery of support payments.

Against:

The bill is unnecessary, at best, as court rule already provides for courts to order parties to keep the friend of the court updated on changes of address. In fact, the bill carries the risk of creating unnecessary delays, because unlike court rule, it gives parties three weeks to notify the friend of the court of the change of address.

POSITIONS:

The Michigan Friend of the Court Association has no position on the bill. (10-6-93)

The Michigan Family Support Council has no position on the bill. (10-6-93)

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