



**House  
Legislative  
Analysis  
Section**

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**SCHOOL COMPOSITE PHOTOS**

**House Bill 4737 (Substitute H-1)  
First Analysis (6-16-93)**

**Sponsor: Rep. David Jaye  
Committee: Education**

***THE APPARENT PROBLEM:***

Typically, schools hire photographers to take student pictures, which then are included in a school yearbook and sometimes in class composite pictures. The School Code permits a school board to contract with a photographer for this purpose but also allows for a student to have a picture taken by another photographer and get it included in the yearbook if it meets the specifications of the yearbook staff. Reportedly, this was specifically permitted to prevent a monopolization of student photography by contract photographers. The same sort of protection is necessary, some say, for composite pictures. A contract photographer, perhaps part of a large chain, could market their school photo sessions by suggesting that if a student's picture was not taken at school by that photographer, the student would not be included in any class composite photo. This would reduce the likelihood of families seeking out local independent photographers for alternative pictures.

***THE CONTENT OF THE BILL:***

The bill would amend the School Code to specify that the school board's hiring of a photographer for the taking of student yearbook pictures would not prohibit a student from having a picture taken by the photographer of his or her choice and having it appear in a class composite picture if the picture met the specifications of the yearbook staff and of the school district. (A similar provision now applies only to pictures appearing in the yearbook, which must meet only yearbook staff specifications. Under the bill, yearbook pictures also would have to meet school district specifications.)

MCL 380.1349

***FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:***

There is no information at present.

***ARGUMENTS:***

***For:***

The bill aims at preventing the monopolization of student photography in a school district by a single large contract photographer and preserves the option of families hiring local independent photographers to take student pictures, which could then be included in class composite photos (as they can now in yearbooks). This closes a loophole in the code as it makes clear that class composite pictures can be treated in the same way as yearbook photos.

***Against:***

Some people consider this bill an example of the micromanagement of school districts by the state. These issues can be worked out at the local level.

***POSITIONS:***

There are no positions at present.

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