Bill as Introduced

HB 298 – AS INTRODUCED

2003 SESSION

03-0650
05/10

HOUSE BILL ***298***

AN ACT relative to the award of joint physical custody of children.

SPONSORS: Rep. Bickford, Straf 68

COMMITTEE: Children and Family Law

ANALYSIS

This bill requires that, in cases where the parties' request for joint physical custody of the children is denied, the court shall state in its decision the reasons why joint physical custody is not deemed most conducive to the benefit of the children.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics.***
Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struckthrough.~~]
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

HB 298 – AS INTRODUCED

03-0650
05/10

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Three

AN ACT relative to the award of joint physical custody of children.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 Findings. The legislature finds and declares that it is the public policy of this state to assure minor children frequent and continuing contact with both parents after the parents have separated or dissolved their marriage and that it is in the public interest to encourage parents to share the rights and responsibilities of child rearing in order to effect this policy.

2 Domestic Relations; Support and Custody of Children; Joint Physical Custody Awards. Amend RSA 458:17, III to read as follows:

III. For the purposes of RSA 458:17, II "joint legal custody" shall include all parental rights with the exception of physical custody which shall be awarded as the court deems most conducive to the benefit of the children. ***If either or both parents request an award of joint physical custody and the court does not award joint physical custody, the court shall state in its decision the reasons why joint physical custody is not most conducive to the benefit of the children.***

3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2004.

Amendments

Rep. Itse, Rock 80
March 10, 2003
2003-0609h
05/04

Amendment to HB 298

Amend the title of the bill by replacing it with the following:

AN ACT relative to physical child custody decisions.

Amend the bill by replacing all after the enacting clause with the following:

1 Findings. The legislature finds and declares that it is the public policy of this state that frequent and continuing contact between minor children and both parents after the parents have separated or dissolved their marriage is ordinarily beneficial to the children. The legislature also finds that it is in the public interest to encourage parents to share the rights and responsibilities of child rearing in order to effect this policy.

2 Domestic Relations; Support and Custody of Children; Joint Physical Custody Awards. Amend RSA 458:17, III to read as follows:

III. For the purposes of RSA 458:17, II "joint legal custody" shall include all parental rights with the exception of physical custody which shall be awarded as the court deems most conducive to the benefit of the children. ***Upon the request of either party, the court shall make findings relative to the basis for an award of physical custody.***

3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2004.

2003-0609h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill provides that, upon the request of either party, the court shall make findings relative to the basis for a physical child custody decision.

Rep. Gargasz, Hills. 46
March 13, 2003
2003-0695h
05/01

Amendment to HB 298

Not Used

Amend the title of the bill by replacing it with the following:

AN ACT relative to physical child custody decisions.

Amend the bill by replacing all after the enacting clause with the following:

1 Findings. The legislature finds that it is usually in the best interest of the child to have contact with both parents.

2 Domestic Relations; Support and Custody of Children; Joint Physical Custody Awards. Amend RSA 458:17, III to read as follows:

III. For the purposes of RSA 458:17, II "joint legal custody" shall include all parental rights with the exception of physical custody which shall be awarded as the court deems most conducive to the benefit of the children. ***Upon the request of either party, the court shall make findings relative to the basis for an award of physical custody.***

3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2004.

2003-0695h

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill provides that, upon the request of either party, the court shall make findings relative to the basis for a physical child custody decision.

Speakers

SIGN UP SHEET

To Register Opinion If Not Speaking

Bill # HB 298 Date 2/4/03

Committee Children & Family Law

** Please Print All Information **

Name	Address	Phone	Representing	(check one) Pro	Con
James O'Brien	Seabrook NH		Self	✓	
Michael J. Geanoulis			NCFC	✓	
Ned White	Milton NH	652-9595		✓	
Michael Smith	Manchester	626-1456		✓	
Gary Gagnon JR.	Bossipee NH		self	✓	

Hearing Minutes

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND FAMILY LAW

PUBLIC HEARING ON HB 298

BILL TITLE: relative to the award of joint physical custody of children.

DATE: Feb. 4, 2003

LOB ROOM: 206 **Time Public Hearing Called to Order:** 10:15 a.m.

Time Adjourned: 10:45 a.m.

(please circle if present)

Committee Members: Reps. Moran, McRae, J. Brown, Arnold, Bickford, Greenberg, D. Bouchard, Itse, Furman, Gargasz, Dokmo, Ouellette, Hallyburton, J. Allen, E. Blanchard, Grassie, B. Richardson, Allison, T. Pratt, L. Johnson and Gile.

Bill Sponsors: Rep. Bickford

TESTIMONY

* Use asterisk if written testimony and/or amendments are submitted.

Rep. Bickford, New Durham, prime sponsor- This bill demonstrates the state's interest in having both parents share the rights and responsibilities of their children. If joint physical custody is not awarded by the court, the court must state the reasons joint custody is not most conducive to the benefit of the children. Rep. Bickford cited statistics as to the number of cases where joint physical custody was awarded.

**Statistics recorded in file*

Jim O'Brien, Seabrook- Supports. He is currently in the process of a divorce. He believes anything supporting both parents is best for the child and anything that does not is child abuse.

Michael Geanoulis, National Congress for Fathers and Children, New Castle- Supports.
**He submitted a book for the record.*
He does not discount the importance of mothers, but believes fathers are also very important.

Michael A. Smith, Manchester- He is a father of three, ages 10, 12, and 8, and has not seen them since December of 2000. He thinks custody to the mother only is a disservice. He says he represented himself and could not do a good job at this. He felt helpless in his attempts to be with his children. Fathers are heartbroken and suicide rates of non-custodial fathers are high. He sees a psychiatrist and is having emotional problems because of not having meaningful contacts with his children.

Linda Griebsch, NH Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (NHCADSV), Concord- She thinks the best interests of the parents are inherent in this bill, not the best interests of the children. This bill does not have any reference to situations where domestic violence or child abuse is an issue.

Sheila Evans, NH Women's Lobby, Concord- Opposes. The current law is adequate. She states there seems to be an erosion of respect for judges. She believes domestice violence issues should be addressed before joint custody is granted. She believes that both parents should request joint custody, not either parent. Better to ask the court to list the positive aspects of custody, rather than the negative reasons if the bill goes forward.

Subcommittee Appointed:
Chairman: Rep. Gargasz
Rep. Allen
Rep. Johnson
Rep. Itse

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Hull Richardson

Rep. Barbara Hull Richardson, Clerk

Sub-Committee Actions

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND FAMILY LAW

SUBCOMMITTEE WORK SESSION ON HB 298

BILL TITLE: relative to the award of joint physical custody of children.

DATE: Mar. 6, 2003

Subcommittee Members: Reps. Gargasz, Allen, Johnson, Itse

Comments and Recommendations: Two different amendments to present to the full committee

Amendments:

Sponsor: Rep. Daniel Itse	OLS Document #:	0609h	Adopted
Sponsor: Rep. Carolyn Gargasz	OLS Document #:	0695h	Adopted
Sponsor: Rep.	OLS Document #:		

Motions: (OTP), OTP/A, ITL, Interim Study (Please circle one.) **AMENDMENT 0609h**

Moved by Rep. Daniel C. Itse

Seconded by Rep. Janet F. Allen

Vote: 4-0

Motions: (OTP), OTP/A, ITL, Interim Study (Please circle one.) **AMENDMENT 0695h**

Moved by Rep. Daniel C. Itse

Seconded by Rep. Janet F. Allen

Vote: 4-0

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Carolyn Gargasz
Subcommittee Chairman

Testimony

Language from Maine for **HB 298**

LD1405 Title 19-A , Chapter 55, 1653

FILE COPY

The Legislature finds and declares that it is the public policy of this State to assure minor children of frequent and continuing contact with both parents after the parents have separated or dissolved their marriage and that it is in the public interest to encourage parents to share the rights and responsibilities of child rearing in order to effect this policy.

If either or both parents request an award of **shared primary residential care** and the court does not award **shared primary residential care** of the child, the court shall state in its decision the reasons why **shared primary residential care** is not in the best interest of the child;

FILE COPY

Award of Physical Custody of Number of Minor Children in New Hampshire

Contested Cases, 1999

Physical Custody of Children	Cases		Number of Children	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Mother only	184	75.7	341	76.8
Father only	23	9.5	40	9.0
Joint (Mother and Father)	26	10.7	43	9.7
Other only	5	-	11	-
Split* (Mother)	5	-	5	-
(Father)			3	-
(Joint)			0	-
(Other)			1	-
Total	**243**	**100**	**444**	**100**

- percentages based on fewer than 20 events are unreliable and not calculated

*Custody of different children awarded to different parties

Contested Cases, 2000

Physical Custody of Children	Cases		Number of Children	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Mother only	139	66.8	259	66.6
Father only	35	16.8	63	16.2
Joint (Mother and Father)	24	11.5	40	10.3
Other only	1	-	2	-
Split* (Mother)	9	-	12	-
(Father)			12	-
(Joint)			0	-
(Other)			1	-
Total	**208**	**100**	**389**	**100**

- percentages based on fewer than 20 events are unreliable and not calculated

*Custody of different children awarded to different parties

Contested Cases, 2001

Physical Custody of Children	Cases		Number of Children	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Mother only	157	75.8	271	74.5
Father only	26	12.6	51	14.0
Joint (Mother and Father)	15	-	23	6.3
Other only	2	-	4	-
Split* (Mother)	7	-	7	-
(Father)			5	-
(Joint)			1	-
(Other)			2	-
Total	**207**	**100**	**364**	**100**

- percentages based on fewer than 20 events are unreliable and not calculated

*Custody of different children awarded to different parties

Bureau of Health Statistics Data Management DHHS OCPH
Andrew Chalsma

January 16, 2003
T:non\RepBickford

FILE COPY

96. Contested Award of Physical Custody of Minor Children by County Issuing Decree of Dissolution for Divorce Occurrences ■ New Hampshire, 1998

County	Cases	Children Involved
Belknap	3	5
Carroll	17	34
Cheshire	7	21
Coos	9	17
Grafton	13	22
Hillsborough	94	176
Merrimack	27	50
Rockingham	74	136
Strafford	26	44
Sullivan	5	9
Total	**275**	**514**

97. Award of Physical Custody of Minor Children in Contested Cases ■ New Hampshire, 1998

	Cases		Children Involved	
Physical Custody of Children	**Number**	**Percentage**	**Number**	**Percentage**
Mother only	198	72.0	368	71.6
Father only	40	14.5	71	13.8
Joint (Mother and Father)	29	10.5	46	8.9
Other only	3	1.1	8	1.6
Split[55] (Mother)	5	1.8	7	1.4
Split[55] (Father)			5	1.0
Split[55] (Joint)			8	1.6
Split[55] (Other)			1	0.2
Total	**275**	**100**	**514**	**100**

Award of Physical Custody of Minor Children in New Hampshire

FILE COPY

All Cases, 1999

Physical Custody of Children	Cases		Number of Children	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Mother only	2,331	68.6	4,044	67.8
Father only	295	8.7	515	8.6
Joint (Mother and Father)	660	19.4	1146	19.2
Other only	29	0.9	54	0.9
Split* (Mother)			104	1.7
(Father)	82	2.4	77	1.3
(Joint)			20	0.3
(Other)			4	-
Total	**3,397**	**100**	**5,964**	**100**

- percentages based on fewer than 20 events are unreliable and not calculated

*Custody of different children awarded to different parties

All Cases, 2000

Physical Custody of Children	Cases		Number of Children	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Mother only	2,113	66.7	3,732	66.6
Father only	278	8.8	460	8.2
Joint (Mother and Father)	683	21.6	1184	21.1
Other only	23	0.7	44	0.8
Split* (Mother)			87	1.6
(Father)	71	2.2	84	1.5
(Joint)			8	-
(Other)			4	-
Total	**3,168**	**100**	**5,603**	**100**

- percentages based on fewer than 20 events are unreliable and not calculated

*Custody of different children awarded to different parties

All Cases, 2001

Physical Custody of Children	Cases		Number of Children	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Mother only	1,898	67.4	3,280	66.4
Father only	242	8.6	407	8.2
Joint (Mother and Father)	602	21.4	1064	21.5
Other only	18	-	44	0.9
Split* (Mother)			73	1.5
(Father)	56	2.0	58	1.2
(Joint)			5	-
(Other)			9	-
Total	**2,816**	**100**	**4,940**	**100**

- percentages based on fewer than 20 events are unreliable and not calculated

*Custody of different children awarded to different parties

Bureau of Health Statistics Data Management DHHS OCPH
Andrew Chalsma

January 16, 2003
T:non\RepBickford

Complete Document

Can Be Viewed

In Bill Folder

FATHER FACTS

THIRD EDITION

FILE COPY

EXHIBIT IN SUPPORT OF HB 298

FOR THE FILE ON HB 298 (2003)

SUBMITTED BY

m GEANOULIS, PRES
NATIONAL CONGRESS FOR FATHERS & CHILDREN
PO BOX 45
NEW CASTLE NH 03854
603-436-8810

Wade F. Horn, Ph.D.
The National Fatherhood Initiative

Table of Contents

Top Ten Father Facts 5

Introduction 6

I. Trends in Fatherlessness 11

Attitudes About Fatherhood 11

The Facts of Father Absence 12

Single Moms, Absent Dads 16

Fatherless Children 17

Divorce Trends 20

Attitudes About Divorce 21

The Facts About Divorce 21

The Consequences of Divorce 22

Divorce is the Problem 22

Economic Consequences of Divorce 23

Consequences of Divorce for Child Well-Being 23

Consequences of Divorce Into Adulthood 25

Child Support and Child Custody 27

Child Custody 27

Child Support 28

Effects of Child Support on Child Well-Being 29

Effects of Visitation and Custody Arrangements on Child Support and Child Well-Being 29

Stepfamily Trends 30

Attitudes About Stepfamilies 30

The Facts About Stepfamilies 31

Consequences of Stepfamilies 33

Stability of Stepfamilies 33

The Stepfamily Experience 33

Consequences of Stepfamilies for the Well-Being of Children 34

Trends in Out-of-Wedlock Childbearing 36

The Facts About Out-of-Wedlock Births 36

Out-Of-Wedlock Births by Race and Ethnicity 38

Out-of-Wedlock Births to Teenagers 39

The Murphy Brown Myth 40

Consequences of Out-of-Wedlock Childbearing 42

Economic Consequences of Out-of-Wedlock Childbearing 42

Consequences of Out-of-Wedlock Childbearing for Child Well-Being 42

Out-of-Wedlock Childbearing Begets More Out-of-Wedlock Childbearing 43

Trends in Single Fatherhood 43

The Facts About Single Fathers 43

The Single Father Experience 44

Cohabitation Trends 45

The Facts About Cohabitation 45

Consequences of Cohabitation 46

Consequences of Cohabitation for Family Stability and Subsequent Marital Satisfaction 46

The Cohabitation Experience 47

Consequences of Cohabitation for Child Well-Being 48

Contents

II. Vanishing Family Time 49
The Parental Time Deficit 49
Attitudes About Family Time 49
The Facts About Family Time 49
Consequences of Lack of Family Time 50
The Father Time Deficit 51
Attitudes About Father Time 51
The Facts About Father Time 51
Fatherless Households and Father Involvement 51
Father-Work Conflict 52
Fathers and Childcare 53

III. Consequences of Fatherlessness for Children 54
Child Abuse 54
The Child Abuse-Father Absence Connection 54
Cohabitation and Child Abuse 56
Crime 57
Juvenile Delinquency and Father Absence 58
Violent Crime and Father Absence 60
Adult Criminality and Father Absence 61
Educational Problems 62
Parental Involvement and Father Absence 62
School Achievement and Father Absence 62
Repeated Grade and Father Absence 64
School Drop-Out Rates and Father Absence 65
Graduation Rates and Father Absence 66
School Disciplinary Problems and Father Absence 67
Emotional and Behavioral Problems 69
Fatherlessness and Psychiatric Problems 69
Peer Problems and Father Absence 72
Suicide and Father Absence 72
Drug, Alcohol, and Tobacco Abuse and Father Absence 73
Physical Health of Children 74
General Health and Father Absence 74
Prenatal Care, Infant Health and Father Absence 75
Poverty 77
Earnings and Family Structure 77
Divorce and Earnings 78
Consequences of Family Structure for Later Earnings 78
Poverty and Family Structure 79
Poverty, Family Structure and Race and Ethnicity 81
Homelessness and Family Structure 82
Distressed Neighborhoods and Father Absence 82
Welfare Participation and Family Structure 83
Welfare Receipt and Marriage 84
Sexual Activity and Father Absence 85
Survey Data 85
Teenage Sexual Activity and Father Absence 85

IV. Positive Effects of Father Presence 87
Attitudes About Positive Father Involvement 87
The Positive Impact of Father Involvement 88
Educational Attainment and Positive Father Involvement 89
Development of Empathy and Positive Father Involvement 90
Pro-social Behavior and Positive Father Involvement 90
Development of Healthy Self-Esteem and Positive Father Involvement 90
Effects of Early Father Involvement on Child Well-Being 91

V. Differences in Maternal and Paternal Behavior 92
Not Just Another Pair of Hands 92

VI. Marriage 94
Attitudes About Marriage 94
The Decline of the Marital Relationship 94
Positive Effects of Marriage on Adult Well-Being 95
Positive Effects of Good Marriages on Child Well-Being 96

VII. Adoption and Fatherhood 97
Trends in Adoption 97
Consequences of Adoption for Child Well-Being 97

VIII. State Trends in Fatherhood 100

IX. International Father Facts 102
Attitudes Towards Fatherhood 102
International Trends and Comparisons 102

Acknowledgements 106

List of Tables and Figures

Tables

National Indicators of the Status of Fatherhood 10
Pathways to Fatherlessness 10
Family Groups by Presence of Own Children Under 18: 1970-1996 14
Living Arrangements of Children Under 18 Years: 1960 to 1996 15
Children Under 18 Years Living with Mother Only, by Marital Status: 1960-1995 15
Living Arrangements of White Children Under 18 Years: 1960 to 1996 18
Living Arrangements of Black Children Under 18 Years: 1960 to 1996 18
Living Arrangements of Hispanic Children Under 18 Years: 1970 to 1996 19
Number of Divorces by Year: 1960-1995 21
Estimated Number of Children Involved in Divorce: 1960 to 1995 21

Children Living with Two Parents by Their Biological, Step, Adoptive and Foster Status 31
Births to Unmarried Women: 1960 to 1994 37
Percent of Teen Births That Were Non-Marital: 1960-1996 39
Percent of Teen Births That Were Non-Marital by Race and Ethnicity: 1994 40
Money Income of Families — Percent Distribution, by Income Quintile and Top Five Percent for 1995 41
Unmarried Couple Households by Presence of Children: 1960-1995 45
Married Fathers Providing Child Care While Mothers Are Working: 1988-1993 53
Percent of U.S. Children Ages 3-17 Who Have Had a Delay in Growth or Development,
a Learning Disability, or an Emotional Problem: 1988 70
Percent Distribution of Women Receiving Prenatal Care by Marital Status and Race 76
Children Under Six Who Live in Poverty 81
Median Family Income by Marital Status, Race and Ethnicity 82
Percent of Families Living Below the Poverty Level by Marital Status, Race and Ethnicity 82
Earnings and AFDC Participation Rates of Two-Parent, Divorced, and Never-Married Families with Children: 1993 83
Adoption and Healthy Homes 98
Fatherhood Trends by State 100

Figures

Percentage Distribution of Children Living With and Without Their Biological Fathers 12
Percent of Children Living with Mother Only: 1960 to 1996 13
Number of Black Versus White Children Living with Mother Only: 1960 to 1996 16
Percent of Black Versus White Children Living with Mother Only: 1960 to 1996 17
Children Involved in Divorce: 1960 to 1995 20
Percent Distribution of Custody Awards: 1990 27
Reasons Non-Custodial Fathers Give For Not Paying Child Support 29
Total Number of Children Living in Stepfamilies By Race 32
Number of Children Born to Unmarried Women: 1960 to 1995 38
Among Women Who Conceived Before Marriage, Percent Marrying Before Birth of Child 39
Percent Births to Unmarried Mothers Under 20: Top 10 U.S. Cities, 1995 40
Money Income of Married Couple, Male and Female Households 41
Percent of Children Reporting a Close Relationship with Father, By Family Type 50
Percentage of 3-5 Year Olds Who Were Read to Every Day By a Family Member, By Family Type: 1993-1996 63
Percent of Children Under Six Who Live in Poverty by Family Type 79
AFDC Recipients by Family Type: 1961 vs. 1993 83
Women Who Conceived Before Marriage and Chose Adoption 98
Percent of Births to Unmarried Women by Country: 1994 103
One-Parent Households with Dependent Children as Percent of Total Households with Children 103



The National Fatherhood Initiative
One Bank Street, Suite 160
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
(301) 948-0599 • FAX (301) 948-4325
e-mail: NFI1995@aol.com
www.fatherhood.org

Voting Sheets

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND FAMILY LAW

EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 298

BILL TITLE: **relative to the award of joint physical custody of children.**

DATE: March 18, 2003

LOB ROOM: 206

Amendments:

Sponsor: Rep. Itse	OLS Document #:	0609h	Adopted
Sponsor: Rep.	OLS Document #:		
Sponsor: Rep.	OLS Document #:		

Motions: (OTP), OTP/A, ITL, Interim Study (Please circle one.) **AMENDMENT**

Moved by Rep. David A. Bickford

Seconded by Rep. Thomas I. Arnold Jr.

Vote: 8-7 (Please attach record of roll call vote.)

Motions: OTP, (OTP/A), ITL, Interim Study (Please circle one.)

Moved by Rep. Karen K. McRae

Seconded by Rep. David A. Bickford

Vote: 13-2 (Please attach record of roll call vote.)

CONSENT CALENDAR VOTE: NO

(Vote to place on Consent Calendar must be unanimous.)

Statement of Intent: Refer to Committee Report

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Barbara Hull Richardson, Clerk

OFFICE OF THE HOUSE CLERK

2003 SESSION

CHILDREN AND FAMILY LAW

Bill #: HB 298 Title: relative to the award of joint physical custody of children

PH Date: 2/4/03 Exec Session Date: 3/18/03

Motion: OTP - amendment only Amendment #: 2003-0609h

MEMBER	YEAS	NAYS
Moran, Edward P, Chairman	✓	
McRae, Karen K, V Chairman	✓	
Brown, Julie M		
Arnold, Thomas I	✓	
Bickford, David A	✓	
Greenberg, Gary C	✓	
Bouchard, David M		
Itse, Daniel C	✓	
Furman, Christine M		
Gargasz, Carolyn M		✓
Dokmo, Cynthia J		✓
Ouellette, Robert O	✓	
Hallyburton, Margaret D		
Allen, Janet F	✓	
Blanchard, Elizabeth D		✓
Pratt, Irene A		✓
Allison, David C		
Richardson, Barbara Hull, Clerk		✓
Johnson, Lionel W		
Grassie, Anne C		✓
Gile, Mary Stuart		✓
	8	7
TOTAL VOTE:		

OFFICE OF THE HOUSE CLERK 2003 SESSION

CHILDREN AND FAMILY LAW

Bill #: HB 298 Title: relative to the award of joint physical custody of children

PH Date: 2/4/03 Exec Session Date: 3/18/03

Motion: OTP/A Amendment #: 0609h

MEMBER	YEAS	NAYS
Moran, Edward P, Chairman	✓	
McRae, Karen K, V Chairman	✓	
Brown, Julie M		
Arnold, Thomas I	✓	
Bickford, David A	✓	
Greenberg, Gary C	~~✓~~	✓
Bouchard, David M		
Itse, Daniel C	✓	
Furman, Christine M		
Gargasz, Carolyn M	✓	
Dokmo, Cynthia J	✓	
Ouellette, Robert O	✓	
Hallyburton, Margaret D		
Allen, Janet F	✓	
Blanchard, Elizabeth D	✓	
Pratt, Irene A		✓
Allison, David C		
Richardson, Barbara Hull, Clerk	✓	
Johnson, Lionel W		
Grassie, Anne C	✓	
Gile, Mary Stuart	✓	
	13	2
TOTAL VOTE:		

Committee Report

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: **Children and Family Law**

BILL NUMBER: **HB 298**

TITLE: relative to the award of joint physical custody of children.

DATE: March 18, 2003 CONSENT CALENDAR YES ☐ NO ☒

☐ OUGHT TO PASS

☒ OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT

☐ INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE

☐ REFER TO COMMITTEE FOR INTERIM STUDY
(Available only in second year of biennium.)

STATEMENT OF INTENT
(Include Committee Vote)

The amendment replaces the original bill. The amendment states the legislative findings that it is in the public interest to encourage parents undergoing dissolution of the marriage to continue to share the rights and responsibilities of child rearing and that the court shall make findings relative to an award of physical custody.

Vote 13-2.

Rep. Karen K. McRae
FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk
cc: Committee Bill file

Children and Family Law

HB 298, relative to the award of joint physical custody of children. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT**

Rep. Karen K. McRae for Children and Family Law: The amendment replaces the original bill. The amendment states the legislative findings that it is in the public interest to encourage parents undergoing dissolution of the marriage to continue to share the rights and responsibilities of child rearing and that the court shall make findings relative to an award of physical custody. **Vote 13-2.**

State of New Hampshire

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCORD

HB298 OTP/A 13-2

The amendment replaces the original bill. The amendment states the legislative findings that it is in the public interest to encourage parents ~~divorced divorcing~~ undergoing the dissolution of the marriage to continue to share the rights and responsibilities of child rearing and that the court shall make findings ~~on the basis~~ relative to an award of physical custody. OK EDM. Karen McRae