

HB # 4479

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OFFICE OF WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION, 1994



ENROLLED

Com. Sub. For
HOUSE BILL No. 4479

(By Delegates *Pitttel, Piro, Tribbett,*
Petersen, Varner and Mezzatesta)



Passed March 10, 1994

In Effect 90 Days From Passage

ENROLLED
COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
H. B. 4479

(By DELEGATES PETHTEL, PINO, TRIBETT,
PETERSEN, VARNER AND MEZZATESTA)

[Passed March 10, 1994; in effect ninety days from passage.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact section one, article two-b, chapter forty-eight of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, relating to rights of grandparents of minor children generally; and defining the term "grandparent" for purposes of visitation rights.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That section one, article two-b, chapter forty-eight of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

ARTICLE 2B. GRANDPARENT VISITATION.

§48-2B-1. Legislative findings; intent; definitions.

1 (a) The Legislature finds that circumstances may
2 arise where it is appropriate for circuit courts of this
3 state to have jurisdiction to grant to the grandparents
4 of minor children a right of visitation to enhance the
5 best interests of the minor child or children as well as
6 the grandparent. The Legislature further finds that in
7 such situations, as in all situations involving children,
8 the best interests of children must be the paramount
9 consideration. It is the express intent of the Legislature

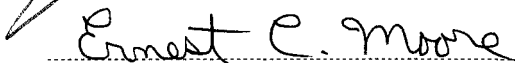
10 that the provisions for grandparent visitation set forth
11 in this article shall be exclusive and under all circum-
12 stances the interests of the child or children involved
13 shall be the court's first and paramount consideration.

14 (b) For purposes of this article, "grandparent" means
15 a biological grandparent, a person married or pre-
16 viously married to a biological grandparent, or a person
17 who has previously been granted custody of the parent
18 of a minor child with whom visitation is sought by a
19 court of competent jurisdiction.

The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.



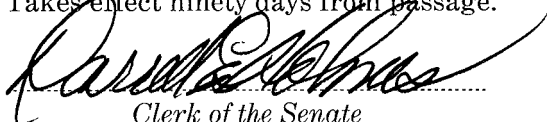
Chairman Senate Committee



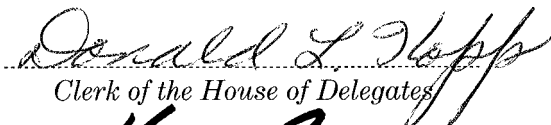
Chairman House Committee

Originating in the House.

Takes effect ninety days from passage.



Clerk of the Senate



Clerk of the House of Delegates

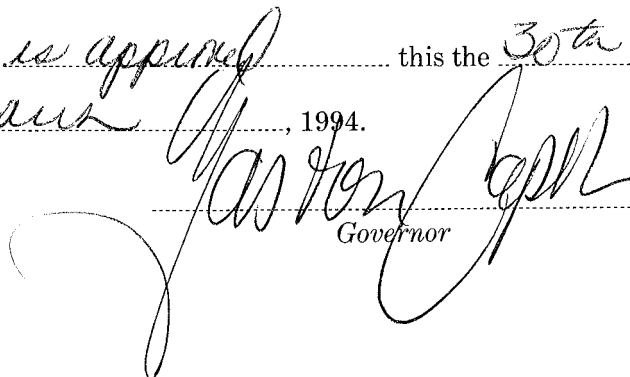


President of the Senate



Speaker of the House of Delegates

The within *is approved* this the *30th*
day of *March*, 1994.



Governor

PRESENTED TO THE

GOVERNOR

Date 3/25/94

Time 10:15 am