

HCS HB 700 -- GRANDPARENT VISITATION

SPONSOR: Rehder

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Special Committee on Aging by a vote of 11 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 7 to 0.

Currently, grandparents may file a motion to modify a decree of dissolution when they have been unreasonably denied a right to visit their grandchildren for a period of 90 days. This bill changes that time period to 30 days.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that there are numerous societal problems leading to grandparents raising grandchildren for large portions of their grandchildren's lives and terminating that relationship, or making it difficult does not benefit the young children. This bill still leaves actual visitation orders up to a judge, but shortens the time at which a family can ask for intervention. It is a small step in the right direction.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Rehder; American Association of Retired Persons; Kellie Bertels; Linda Reutzel; and Marande Massman.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.