

HCS HBs 2505 & 2044 -- CUSTODY OF CHILDREN

SPONSOR: Dolan

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Children and Families by a vote of 14 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Legislative by a vote of 11 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HBs 2505 & 2044.

This bill specifies that, when a court finds both parents of a child equally unfit, unsuitable, or unable to be the child's custodian and finds that it would be in the best interests of the child to be in the custody of a third party, priority must be given to the grandparent or grandparents of the child.

This bill is similar to HB 381 (2025).

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that grandparents are the foundation of families and sincerely love their grandchildren, and grandparents do not have a lot of legal rights as it pertains to child custody or visitation.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Dolan; Arnie C. Dienoff; and FosterAdopt Connect.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that it is important to be flexible, and sometimes the grandparents are not the most qualified or appropriate to step in to care for a child.

Testifying in person against the bill was Mid-Mo Fellowship of Reconciliation.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony and witnesses testifying online can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.