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BILL ANALYSIS

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House Bill 4030

Sponsor: Representative Thomas Hickner

House Committee: Judiciary

Senate Committee: Judiciary

Date Completed: 6-9-88

SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 4030 as passed by the House:

The bill would amend Public Act 288 of 1939, which regulates name changes, to permit the changing of a minor's name with the consent of the custodial parent, if the noncustodial parent could not be located and neither had contributed toward the support of the child nor had been in contact with the child for a period of two years. (The no-contact criterion would apply only if the noncustodial parent had the ability to communicate with the child during the two-year period.) The noncustodial parent's ability to support the child during that period would be assumed unless that parent demonstrated an inability to support or assist in supporting the child, or to comply with the support order.

The bill also would require that written consent to the name change be obtained from minors 12 years of age or older, instead of from minors over the age of 16. A minor under the age of 12 years would have to be consulted regarding a name change and the court would be required to consider the child's wishes. In addition, the bill would allow a petition to change a minor's name to be signed by only one parent, if there were not another legal parent to give consent.

MCL 711.1

Legislative Analyst: P. Affholter

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would have no fiscal impact on State or local government.

Fiscal Analyst: B. Bowerman

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