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## SENATE BILL No. 52

Proposed Changes to introduced printing by AM005202

### DIGEST OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Study committee. Deletes the bill and replaces the bill with a noncode section that urges the legislative council to assign to an appropriate study committee certain topics related to grandparent visitation rights.

A BILL FOR AN ACT ~~<to amend the Indiana Code>~~ concerning family law and juvenile law.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

- 1 SECTION 1. ~~<IC 31-17-5-1 IS AMENDED TO READ AS~~  
2 ~~FOLLOWS>~~[EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]~~< Sec. 1. (a) A child's~~  
3 ~~grandparent may seek>~~ [(a) The legislative council is urged to assign  
4 to an appropriate study committee during the 2026 interim the task  
5 of studying the following:  
6 (1) Whether grandparent] visitation rights ~~<if:~~  
7 ~~— (1) the child's parent is deceased;~~  
8 ~~— (2) the marriage of the child's parents has been dissolved in~~  
9 ~~Indiana; or~~  
10 ~~— (3) subject to subsection (b), the child was born out of~~  
11 ~~wedlock; or~~  
12 ~~— (4) the grandparent has had>~~ [should be expanded to include  
13 a grandparent who has] a demonstrable history of  
14 meaningful contact with ~~<the>~~ [a] child.  
15 ~~<=>~~ [ ~~l(<b>[2]) <A court may not grant>~~ [The petition and  
16 civil procedure requirements for expanding  
17 grandparent] visitation rights ~~<to a paternal~~  
18 ~~grandparent of a child who is born out of wedlock~~  
19 ~~under subsection (a)(3) if the child's father has not~~



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1 ~~established paternity in relation to the child.~~  
2 ~~SECTION 2. IC 31-17-5-1.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA~~  
3 ~~CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS~~  
4 ~~[EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 1.5. (a) A child's:~~  
5 ~~(1) parent;~~  
6 ~~(2) guardian; or~~  
7 ~~(3) custodian;~~  
8 ~~may submit a confidential statement to the court outlining~~  
9 ~~concerns regarding a grandparent's petition, including any history~~  
10 ~~of abuse, neglect, or any other factor relevant to the child's~~  
11 ~~well-being;~~  
12 ~~(b) If a statement is submitted under subsection (a), the court~~  
13 ~~shall:~~  
14 ~~(1) review a statement submitted under subsection (a) in~~  
15 ~~camera; and~~  
16 ~~(2) seal the record to protect the parties' privacy.~~  
17 ~~SECTION 3. IC 31-17-5-3, AS AMENDED BY P.L.16-2017,~~  
18 ~~SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS~~  
19 ~~[EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 3. (a) A proceeding for~~  
20 ~~grandparent's visitation must be commenced by the filing of a~~  
21 ~~petition entitled, "In Re the visitation of \_\_\_\_\_". The petition~~  
22 ~~must:~~  
23 ~~(1) be filed by a grandparent entitled to receive visitation~~  
24 ~~rights under this chapter;~~  
25 ~~(2) be verified; and~~  
26 ~~(3) set forth the following:~~  
27 ~~(A) The names and relationship of:~~  
28 ~~(i) the petitioning grandparent or grandparents;~~  
29 ~~(ii) each child with whom visitation is sought; and~~  
30 ~~(iii) the custodial parent or guardian of each child.~~  
31 ~~(B) The present address of each person named in clause~~  
32 ~~(A);~~  
33 ~~(C) The date of birth of each child with whom visitation~~  
34 ~~is sought;~~  
35 ~~(D) The status under section 1 of this chapter upon~~  
36 ~~which the grandparent seeks visitation;~~  
37 ~~(E) The history of meaningful contact with the child if~~  
38 ~~the petitioning grandparent is seeking visitation under~~  
39 ~~section 1(a)(4) of this chapter;~~  
40 ~~(E) (F) The relief sought.~~  
41 ~~(b) A petition described in subsection (a) must be filed prior to~~  
42 ~~the date a decree of adoption is entered.~~



1 ~~SECTION 4. IC 31-17-5-4, AS AMENDED BY P.L.50-2006;~~  
 2 ~~SECTION 8, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS~~  
 3 ~~[EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 4. A grandparent seeking~~  
 4 ~~visitation rights shall file a petition requesting reasonable visitation~~  
 5 ~~rights:~~  
 6 ~~(1) in a circuit, superior, or probate court of the county in~~  
 7 ~~which the child resides in a case described in section 1(a)(1),~~  
 8 ~~1(a)(3), 1(a)(4), or 10 of this chapter; or~~  
 9 ~~(2) in the court having jurisdiction over the dissolution of the~~  
 10 ~~parents' marriage in a case described in section 1(a)(2) of~~  
 11 ~~this chapter. >L~~  
 12 (b) This SECTION expires July 1, 2027.  
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