

A bill for an act
relating to family law; providing for a joint physical custody study group;
providing for a comprehensive family court process study.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. **JOINT PHYSICAL CUSTODY; STUDY GROUP.**

(a) The state court administrator shall convene a study group of 12 members to consider the impacts of a presumption of joint physical custody in Minnesota. The evaluation shall consider the positive and negative impact on parents and children of adopting a presumption of joint physical custody, the fiscal impact of adopting this presumption, and the experiences of other states that have adopted a presumption of joint physical custody. The study must consider data and information from academic and research professionals.

(b) In appointing members to the study group, the state court administrator must ensure that the viewpoint of parent advocacy groups, citizen members who are not associated with a parent advocacy group, academics and policy analysts, judges, court administrators, attorneys, domestic violence advocates, and other interested parties are represented. The state court administrator must consult with the chairs of the house public safety finance division and the senate public safety budget division on the composition of the working group. The state court administrator shall report to the legislature on the evaluation of presumption of joint physical custody, the experiences of other states, and recommendations made by the study group no later than January 15, 2009.

Sec. 2. **COMPREHENSIVE FAMILY COURT PROCESS; STUDY.**

H.F. No. 1262, 2nd Engrossment - 2007-2008th Legislative Session (2007-2008)

- 2.1 The state court administrator shall report on a plan to conduct a multidisciplinary,
2.2 comprehensive study on family law to the chairs of the budget and policy committees in
2.3 the house and senate with jurisdiction over family law no later than January 15, 2009.