

HOUSE BILL 1141

D4

2lr2446

By: **Delegate Adams**

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2022

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Family Law – Grandparent Visitation**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring an equity court to consider certain factors when determining
4 whether it is in the best interest of a child to grant visitation rights to a grandparent;
5 and generally relating to grandparent visitation.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
7 Article – Family Law
8 Section 9–102
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

11 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
12 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Family Law

14 9–102.

15 (A) An equity court may:

16 (1) consider a petition for reasonable visitation of a grandchild by a
17 grandparent; and

18 (2) if the court finds it to be in the best interests of the child, grant
19 visitation rights to the grandparent.

20 (B) IN MAKING A DETERMINATION UNDER SUBSECTION (A)(2) OF THIS
21 SECTION, THE COURT SHALL CONSIDER:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(1) THE AMOUNT OF PERSONAL CONTACT THAT OCCURRED BETWEEN**
2 **THE GRANDPARENT AND THE CHILD BEFORE THE FILING OF THE PETITION,**
3 **INCLUDING WHETHER THE CHILD AND GRANDPARENT SHARED A SIGNIFICANT**
4 **RELATIONSHIP FOR AT LEAST 12 MONTHS;**

5 **(2) WHETHER THE CHILD DESIRES TO HAVE VISITATION WITH THE**
6 **GRANDPARENT, REGARDLESS OF THE AGE OF THE CHILD; AND**

7 **(3) WHETHER THE GRANDPARENT WAS UNDULY DENIED VISITATION**
8 **BY THE CHILD'S PARENT.**

9 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
10 October 1, 2022.