

HOUSE BILL 1071

D4
HB 476/21 – JUD

4lr0762

By: **Delegates Alston, Acevero, Holmes, J. Long, Miller, and Roberson**
Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2024
Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Family Law – Grandparent Visitation**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the circumstances under which an equity court may grant
4 visitation rights to a grandparent of a child; and generally relating to visitation.

5 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
6 Article – Family Law
7 Section 9–102
8 Annotated Code of Maryland
9 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

12 **Article – Family Law**

13 9–102.

14 An equity court may:

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

17 (2) [if the court finds it to be in the best interests of the child,] grant
18 visitation rights to the grandparent **IF:**

19 **(I) THE COURT FINDS IT TO BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE**
20 **CHILD;**

21 **(II) BOTH OF THE CHILD’S LIVING PARENTS CONSENT TO**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 VISITATION;

2 (III) ONE OF THE CHILD'S LIVING PARENTS CONSENTS TO
3 VISITATION AND THE OTHER PARENT IS UNABLE TO CONSENT TO VISITATION;

4 (IV) BOTH OF THE CHILD'S LIVING PARENTS ARE UNABLE TO
5 CONSENT TO VISITATION; OR

6 (V) EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES EXIST THAT DEMONSTRATE
7 CURRENT OR FUTURE DETRIMENT TO THE CHILD ABSENT VISITATION WITH THE
8 GRANDPARENT.

9 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
10 October 1, 2024.