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H.538

SHORT FORM

Introduced by Representatives Strong of Albany and Young of Greensboro

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Family law; parental rights; grandparent rights

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to allow grandparents to petition the court for reasonable visitation rights with a minor child. Upon such a petition, the court shall consider criteria in making an order relative to a grandparent's visitation rights to the minor child, including: 1) whether such visitation would be in the best interests of the child; 2) whether such visitation would interfere with any parent-child relationship or with a parent's authority over the child; 3) the nature of the relationship between the grandparent and the minor child, including the frequency of contact; 4) the nature of the relationship between the grandparent and the parent of the minor child, including animosity between the grandparent and the parent and the effect such animosity would have on the child; 5) the recommendation regarding visitation made by any guardian ad litem appointed for the child; 6) any preference or wishes expressed by the child; and 7) any such other factors as the court may find appropriate or relevant to the petition for visitation.

1 An act relating to the right of a grandparent to petition for visitation with
2 grandchildren

3 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

4 (TEXT OMITTED IN SHORT-FORM BILLS)