

# HOUSE BILL 1071

D4  
HB 476/21 – JUD

4lr0762

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

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## 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

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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.