



# HOUSE BILL No. 5272

January 30, 2014, Introduced by Reps. Hooker, Robinson, Goike, Somerville, McMillin, Yonker, Lauwers, Price, Schor, Kosowski, Abed and Cavanagh and referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

A bill to amend 1939 PA 288, entitled "Probate code of 1939," by amending section 17b of chapter XIIIA (MCL 712A.17b), as amended by 2002 PA 625.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:**

CHAPTER XIIIA

Sec. 17b. (1) As used in this section:

(a) "Custodian of the videorecorded statement" means the ~~family independence agency,~~ **DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES,** investigating law enforcement agency, prosecuting attorney, or department of attorney general or another person designated under the county protocols established as required by section 8 of the child protection law, 1975 PA 238, MCL 722.628.

(b) "Developmental disability" means that term as defined in section 100a of the mental health code, 1974 PA 258, MCL 330.1100a,

1 except that, for the purposes of implementing this section,  
2 developmental disability includes only a condition that is  
3 attributable to a mental impairment or to a combination of mental  
4 and physical impairments, and does not include a condition  
5 attributable to a physical impairment unaccompanied by a mental  
6 impairment.

7 (c) "Videorecorded statement" means a witness's statement  
8 taken by a custodian of the videorecorded statement as provided in  
9 subsection (5). Videorecorded statement does not include a  
10 videorecorded deposition taken as provided in subsections (16) and  
11 (17).

12 (d) "Witness" means an alleged victim of an offense listed  
13 under subsection (2) who is either of the following:

14 (i) A person under 16 years of age.

15 (ii) A person 16 years of age or older with a developmental  
16 disability.

17 (2) This section only applies to ~~either~~ **1 OR MORE** of the  
18 following:

19 (a) A proceeding brought under section 2(a)(1) of this chapter  
20 in which the alleged offense, if committed by an adult, would be a  
21 felony under section 136b, 145c, 520b to 520e, or 520g of the  
22 Michigan penal code, 1931 PA 328, MCL 750.136b, 750.145c, 750.520b  
23 to 750.520e, and 750.520g, or under former section 136 or 136a of  
24 the Michigan penal code, 1931 PA 328.

25 (b) A proceeding brought under section 2(b) of this chapter.

26 **(C) A PROCEEDING BROUGHT UNDER SECTION 7(6) OF THE CHILD**  
27 **PROTECTION LAW, 1975 PA 238, MCL 722.627.**

1 (3) If pertinent, the witness shall be permitted the use of  
2 dolls or mannequins, including, but not limited to, anatomically  
3 correct dolls or mannequins, to assist the witness in testifying on  
4 direct and cross-examination.

5 (4) A witness who is called upon to testify shall be permitted  
6 to have a support person sit with, accompany, or be in close  
7 proximity to the witness during his or her testimony. A notice of  
8 intent to use a support person shall name the support person,  
9 identify the relationship the support person has with the witness,  
10 and give notice to all parties to the proceeding that the witness  
11 may request that the named support person sit with the witness when  
12 the witness is called upon to testify during any stage of the  
13 proceeding. The notice of intent to use a named support person  
14 shall be filed with the court and shall be served upon all parties  
15 to the proceeding. The court shall rule on a motion objecting to  
16 the use of a named support person before the date at which the  
17 witness desires to use the support person.

18 (5) A custodian of the videorecorded statement may take a  
19 witness's videorecorded statement. The videorecorded statement  
20 shall be admitted at all proceedings except the adjudication stage  
21 instead of the live testimony of the witness. The videorecorded  
22 statement shall state the date and time that the statement was  
23 taken; shall identify the persons present in the room and state  
24 whether they were present for the entire ~~videorecording~~ **VIDEO**  
25 **RECORDING** or only a portion of the ~~videorecording~~, **VIDEO RECORDING;**  
26 and shall show a time clock that is running during the taking of  
27 the statement.

1 (6) In a videorecorded statement, the questioning of the  
2 witness should be full and complete; shall be in accordance with  
3 the forensic interview protocol implemented as required by section  
4 8 of the child protection law, 1975 PA 238, MCL 722.628; and, if  
5 appropriate for the witness's developmental level, shall include,  
6 but need not be limited to, all of the following areas:

7 (a) The time and date of the alleged offense or offenses.

8 (b) The location and area of the alleged offense or offenses.

9 (c) The relationship, if any, between the witness and the  
10 respondent.

11 (d) The details of the offense or offenses.

12 (e) The names of other persons known to the witness who may  
13 have personal knowledge of the offense or offenses.

14 (7) A custodian of the videorecorded statement may release or  
15 consent to the release or use of a videorecorded statement or  
16 copies of a videorecorded statement to a law enforcement agency, an  
17 agency authorized to prosecute the criminal case to which the  
18 videorecorded statement relates, or an entity that is part of  
19 county protocols established under section 8 of the child  
20 protection law, 1975 PA 238, MCL 722.628. Each respondent and, if  
21 represented, his or her attorney has the right to view and hear the  
22 videorecorded statement at a reasonable time before it is offered  
23 into evidence. In preparation for a court proceeding and under  
24 protective conditions, including, but not limited to, a prohibition  
25 on the copying, release, display, or circulation of the  
26 videorecorded statement, the court may order that a copy of the  
27 videorecorded statement be given to the defense. **THE ORDER MAY**

1 SPECIFY WHO SHALL VIEW THE VIDEORECORDED STATEMENT, INDICATE THE  
2 TIME BY WHICH THE VIDEORECORDED STATEMENT IS REQUIRED TO BE  
3 RETURNED, AND STATE A REASON FOR THE RELEASE OF THE VIDEORECORDED  
4 STATEMENT.

5 (8) If authorized by the prosecuting attorney in the county in  
6 which the videorecorded statement was taken, a videorecorded  
7 statement may be used for purposes of training the custodians of  
8 the videorecorded statement in that county on the forensic  
9 interview protocol implemented as required by section 8 of the  
10 child protection law, 1975 PA 238, MCL 722.628.

11 (9) Except as provided in this section, an individual,  
12 including, but not limited to, a custodian of the videorecorded  
13 statement, the witness, or the witness's parent, guardian, guardian  
14 ad litem, or attorney, shall not release or consent to release a  
15 videorecorded statement or a copy of a videorecorded statement.

16 (10) A videorecorded statement that becomes part of the court  
17 record is subject to a protective order of the court for the  
18 purpose of protecting the privacy of the witness.

19 (11) A videorecorded statement shall not be copied or  
20 reproduced in any manner except as provided in this section. A  
21 videorecorded statement is exempt from disclosure under the freedom  
22 of information act, 1976 PA 442, MCL 15.231 to 15.246, is not  
23 subject to release under another statute, and is not subject to  
24 disclosure under the Michigan court rules governing discovery. This  
25 section does not prohibit the production or release of a transcript  
26 of a videorecorded statement.

27 (12) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (15), if, upon

1 the motion of a party or in the court's discretion, the court finds  
2 on the record that psychological harm to the witness would occur if  
3 the witness were to testify in the presence of the respondent at a  
4 court proceeding or in a videorecorded deposition taken as provided  
5 in subsection (13), the court shall order that the witness during  
6 his or her testimony be shielded from viewing the respondent in  
7 such a manner as to enable the respondent to consult with his or  
8 her attorney and to see and hear the testimony of the witness  
9 without the witness being able to see the respondent.

10 (13) In a proceeding brought under section 2(b) of this  
11 chapter, if, upon the motion of a party or in the court's  
12 discretion, the court finds on the record that psychological harm  
13 to the witness would occur if the witness were to testify at the  
14 adjudication stage, the court shall order to be taken a  
15 videorecorded deposition of a witness that shall be admitted into  
16 evidence at the adjudication stage instead of the live testimony of  
17 the witness. The examination and cross-examination of the witness  
18 in the videorecorded deposition shall proceed in the same manner as  
19 permitted at the adjudication stage.

20 (14) In a proceeding brought under section 2(a)(1) of this  
21 chapter in which the alleged offense, if committed by an adult,  
22 would be a felony under section 136b, 145c, 520b to 520e, or 520g  
23 of the Michigan penal code, 1931 PA 328, MCL 750.136b, 750.145c,  
24 750.520b to 750.520e, and 750.520g, or under former section 136 or  
25 136a of the Michigan penal code, 1931 PA 328, if, upon the motion  
26 of a party made before the adjudication stage, the court finds on  
27 the record that the special arrangements specified in subsection

1 (15) are necessary to protect the welfare of the witness, the court  
2 shall order 1 or both of those special arrangements. In determining  
3 whether it is necessary to protect the welfare of the witness, the  
4 court shall consider both of the following:

5 (a) The age of the witness.

6 (b) The nature of the offense or offenses.

7 (15) If the court determines on the record that it is  
8 necessary to protect the welfare of the witness and grants the  
9 motion made under subsection (14), the court shall order 1 or both  
10 of the following:

11 (a) In order to protect the witness from directly viewing the  
12 respondent, the courtroom shall be arranged so that the respondent  
13 is seated as far from the witness stand as is reasonable and not  
14 directly in front of the witness stand. The respondent's position  
15 shall be located so as to allow the respondent to hear and see all  
16 witnesses and be able to communicate with his or her attorney.

17 (b) A questioner's stand or podium shall be used for all  
18 questioning of all witnesses by all parties, and shall be located  
19 in front of the witness stand.

20 (16) In a proceeding brought under section 2(a)(1) of this  
21 chapter in which the alleged offense, if committed by an adult,  
22 would be a felony under section 136b, 145c, 520b to 520e, or 520g  
23 of the Michigan penal code, 1931 PA 328, MCL 750.136b, 750.145c,  
24 750.520b to 750.520e, and 750.520g, or under former section 136 or  
25 136a of the Michigan penal code, 1931 PA 328, if, upon the motion  
26 of a party or in the court's discretion, the court finds on the  
27 record that the witness is or will be psychologically or

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1 emotionally unable to testify at a court proceeding even with the  
 2 benefit of the protections afforded the witness in subsections (3),  
 3 (4), and (15), the court shall order that a videorecorded  
 4 deposition of a witness shall be taken to be admitted at the  
 5 adjudication stage instead of the witness's live testimony.

6 (17) For purposes of the videorecorded deposition under  
 7 subsection (16), the witness's examination and cross-examination  
 8 shall proceed in the same manner as if the witness testified at the  
 9 adjudication stage, and the court shall order that the witness,  
 10 during his or her testimony, shall not be confronted by the  
 11 respondent but shall permit the respondent to hear the testimony of  
 12 the witness and to consult with his or her attorney.

13 (18) This section is in addition to other protections or  
 14 procedures afforded to a witness by law or court rule.

15 (19) A person who intentionally releases a videorecorded  
 16 statement in violation of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor  
 17 punishable by imprisonment for not more than ~~93 days~~ **1 YEAR** or a  
 18 fine of not more than ~~\$500.00~~, **\$1,000.00**, or both.

19 **[(20) THE COURT SHALL RETAIN A VIDEORECORDED STATEMENT MADE UNDER**  
 20 **THIS SECTION AS REQUIRED BY SUPREME COURT RULE. ALL OTHER ENTITIES SHALL**  
 21 **STORE A VIDEORECORDED STATEMENT MADE UNDER THIS SECTION IN ACCORDANCE**  
 22 **WITH THE COUNTY PROTOCOLS ESTABLISHED UNDER SECTION 8 OF THE CHILD**  
 23 **PROTECTION LAW, 1975 PA 238, MCL 722.628.**

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26 Enacting section 1. This amendatory act does not take effect  
 27 unless all of the following bills of the 97th Legislature are



1 enacted into law:

2 (a) Senate Bill No.\_\_\_\_ or House Bill No. 5271 (request no.  
3 03679'13).

4 (b) Senate Bill No.\_\_\_\_ or House Bill No. 5270 (request no.  
5 03680'13).