

# SENATE BILL 1032

D4  
SB 1019/16 – JPR

7lr3615  
CF HB 812

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By: **Senator Robinson**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2017

Assigned to: Rules

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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 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2016 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:

19 **(I) IF EACH OF THE CHILD’S LIVING PARENTS CONSENTS TO**  
20 **VISITATION; OR**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1                                   **(II) IF ONE OR BOTH PARENTS OBJECT TO VISITATION, THE**  
2 **COURT FINDS THAT:**

3                                   **1. EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES EXIST THAT**  
4 **DEMONSTRATE CURRENT OR FUTURE DETRIMENT TO THE CHILD ABSENT**  
5 **VISITATION WITH THE CHILD'S GRANDPARENTS;**

6                                   **2. VISITATION RIGHTS WOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH**  
7 **THE PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP; AND**

8                                   **3. VISITATION RIGHTS WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST**  
9 **OF THE CHILD.**

10           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
11   October 1, 2017.