

HOUSE BILL 476

D4

1lr1925

By: **Delegate Shoemaker**

Introduced and read first time: January 15, 2021

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 2020 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) BOTH OF THE CHILD’S LIVING PARENTS CONSENT TO**
20 **VISITATION;**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(II) ONE OF THE CHILD’S LIVING PARENTS CONSENTS TO**
2 **VISITATION AND THE OTHER PARENT IS UNABLE TO CONSENT TO VISITATION;**

3 **(III) BOTH OF THE CHILD’S LIVING PARENTS ARE UNABLE TO**
4 **CONSENT TO VISITATION; OR**

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

8 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
9 October 1, 2021.