

HOUSE BILL 421

D4
HB 474/15 – JUD

6lr1727

By: **Delegates Jalisi, Conaway, Glass, Hornberger, Kittleman, Lisanti, McComas, Rosenberg, Shoemaker, Sophocleus, West, B. Wilson, and K. Young**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2016

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 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

10 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
11 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Family Law

12 9–102.

13 An equity court may:

14 (1) consider a petition for reasonable visitation of a grandchild by a
15 grandparent; and

16 (2) [if the court finds it to be in the best interests of the child,] grant
17 visitation rights to the grandparent:

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

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**
9 **INTERESTS OF THE CHILD.**

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
11 October 1, 2016.