

INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2017-061

State of Arkansas

As Engrossed: S3/20/17

91st General Assembly

A Bill

Regular Session, 2017

SENATE BILL 777

By: Senator L. Chesterfield

Filed with: Senate Committee on Judiciary
pursuant to A.C.A. §10-3-217.

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING CHILD CUSTODY; AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING CHILD
CUSTODY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

*SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 9-13-101, concerning the award of custody
of a child, is amended to add an additional subsection to read as follows:*

*(f)(1) In all child custody cases, a child who is fourteen (14) years
of age or older shall have the right to select the parent whom the child
desires to be awarded custody of him or her.*

*(2) A child may select a custodial parent under this subsection
no more than one (1) time every two (2) years from the date of the previous
selection.*

*(3) A child's selection under this subsection is presumptive of
the best interest of the child unless the court determines after considering
other factors that an award of custody to the parent selected by the child is
not in the best interest of the child.*

*(4) A child's selection under this subsection is insufficient to
constitute a material change in circumstances in an action seeking a
modification of the custody of the child.*

/s/L. Chesterfield

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Referred by the Arkansas Senate

Prepared by: VJF