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(S.D.)-Bar Backs Custody Bill, Group Says It Falls Short

By: Dennis and Kathi Brown Posted at: 01/18/2014 09:53 AM

SIoux FALLS, South Dakota (AP) - South Dakota's lawyers are supporting legislation to establish child custody guidelines for judges to follow in divorce cases, but a group advocating for a shared parenting law says it doesn't go far enough.

South Dakota Bar Association Executive Director Tom Barnett says the bill would eliminate inconsistent orders where a judge in one jurisdiction makes a custody determination far different from a judge in another jurisdiction - when the facts of the cases are similar.

Casey Wilson, a Flandreau father and member of South Dakota Shared Parenting, calls the bar's proposed legislation an "incremental change." He tells the Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/1dEbmQS>) it won't change the fact that one parent is awarded custody of children when both parents are capable.

Even so, Wilson says the bill would "move the ball forward."