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Committee Assignment: Assembly Freedom 2

Bill #: AF-12

1 **Sponsors:** Desiree Monroe, Holly Perry, Sarah McGarr, Katelyn Turano

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3 **An Act To** Amend Article 6 Part 3 Section 651 in Family Court Law to change  
4 and/or establish an age when minors with separated parents have a voice in family  
5 court relating to custody arrangements.

6

7 *The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:*

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9 **Purpose** Give minors starting at age fourteen, with separated parents, a voice in  
10 family court that will have more of an impact on the custody arrangements with  
11 their parents.

12

13 **Summary of Provisions**

14 **Section 1: Definitions**

15 Conflicting Findings: In the case where the parent awarded custody is charged with  
16 a felony after the custodial hearing has been adjourned, the placement of the minor  
17 will be re-evaluated.

18 **Section 2**

19 Family Court - Article 6 Part 3 Section 651

20 7. Feasibility study. The commissioner of the office of children and family services,  
21 in conjunction with the office of court administration,  
22 is hereby authorized and directed to examine, study, evaluate and make  
23 recommendations concerning the feasibility of the utilization of  
24 computers in family courts which are connected to the statewide central  
25 register of child abuse and maltreatment established and maintained  
26 pursuant to section four hundred twenty-two of the social services law,  
27 as a means of providing family courts with information regarding parties  
28 requesting orders of custody or visitation. Minors over the age of fourteen can  
29 request orders of custody that can be honored unless of conflicting findings.

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31 **Justification** Minors with separated parents should have more of a say in family  
32 court relating to the custody arrangements, because ultimately they are going to be  
33 the ones living in the conditions given to them. Minors with separated parents may  
34 have certain opinions towards one parent, and their opinions should be taken into  
35 consideration and respected when determining custody arrangements.

36

37 **Fiscal Implications** No fiscal implications to this bill.

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39 **Effective Date** This bill will go into effect one year after its passage.