

Currently, I am a family law attorney specializing in custody and parenting time. Joint custody cannot be ordered for parents unless the parents agree to it. How does it make sense, when the parties aren't in agreement, to order them joint custody? Joint custody requires agreement of the parties on all major decisions regarding the children's education, healthcare, and religious education. It's hard for me to believe that if the parties were ordered joint custody when they don't agree, that they would then start making decisions together and coming to agreements. This seems like a path towards more conflict and litigation for the family. Would a parent have to go back to court every time the parents don't agree on something?

If this bill proposes that when ordering joint custody, that means either parent can make those decisions regarding the child, I think that would be better but impractical in the long run. How can a child feel secure and stable if parents are making different decisions and choices in regard to their life? Joint custody is a good option for a family when the parents have a strong and quality co-parenting relationship. Unfortunately, that's not always the case when families go to court. It's not a perfect system but this bill would not help make it better or easier for families in these situations.