

1 **by certain sexual assault.**

2 (a) This article sets forth principles governing the
3 allocation of custodial and decision-making responsibility for a
4 minor child when the parents do not live together.

5 (b) The Legislature finds and declares that it is the public
6 policy of this state to assure that the best interest of children
7 is the court's primary concern in allocating custodial and
8 decision-making responsibilities between parents who do not live
9 together. In furtherance of this policy, the Legislature declares
10 that a child's best interest will be served by assuring that minor
11 children have frequent and continuing contact with parents who have
12 shown the ability to act in the best interest of their children, to
13 educate parents on their rights and responsibilities and the effect
14 their separation may have on children, to encourage mediation of
15 disputes, and to encourage parents to share in the rights and
16 responsibilities of rearing their children after the parents have
17 separated or divorced.

18 (c) A person who has been convicted of sexual assault in
19 accordance with provisions of article eight-b, chapter sixty-one of
20 this code, may not be awarded custody of a child resulting from the
21 sexual assault, and forfeits all parental rights relating to the
22 child, as those rights are defined in section three, article one,
23 chapter forty-nine of this code.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to prevent rapists from obtaining custody of a child resulting from the rape, and from having parental rights relating to the child.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from the present law, and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.