

CHAPTER 1275**DISABILITY PREVENTION PROGRAMS***S.J.R. 2003*

A JOINT RESOLUTION proposing the establishment of disability prevention activities coordination by certain state agencies, and requiring preparation of a report relating to coordination of disability prevention programs.

WHEREAS, between 50,000 and 60,000 Iowans of all ages have a developmental disability, meaning a disability that arises before 22 years of age which is of sufficient severity to require lifelong or extended care, treatment, and training. In addition, many more Iowans experience less severe physical and mental disabilities which require specialized services in order to achieve independence; and

WHEREAS, an unacceptably large number of these disabilities are due to conditions that can be prevented or minimized if recognized and treated early, including drug abuse, teenage pregnancy, inadequate prenatal care, genetic factors, fetal alcohol syndrome, child abuse, poor nutrition, developmental delay, toxins found in the environment, and preventable injuries; and

WHEREAS, the incidence and the effect of disabling conditions can be reduced by 15 to 25 percent if proven prevention measures are fully implemented, and are known and utilized by the people of the state; and

WHEREAS, there are many existing prevention activities underway within state government that can be enhanced through greater intra-agency and interagency coordination as demonstrated in the Iowa state plan for the prevention of developmental disabilities prepared by the governor's planning council for developmental disabilities in December 1988; and

WHEREAS, it has been further demonstrated that a continuum of comprehensive, integrated, and coordinated prevention services that begin prior to conception and continue through adolescence can prevent developmental disabilities and can reduce the economic, social, and familial costs associated with the disabilities; and

WHEREAS, professional knowledge, as well as public awareness and acceptance of effective measures to prevent disabilities, are essential to achieve a reduction in the incidence and effect of disabilities; and

WHEREAS, disabilities should be prevented, to the extent possible, in order to benefit children, families, and communities, and to provide substantial economic benefit to the state; and

WHEREAS, a coordinated approach to disability prevention activities should be established within state government in order to assist with the prevention of disabilities, and the following activities should be performed:

1. Development of strategies to reduce disabilities which begin prior to conception and continue through adolescence.

2. Coordination of disability prevention efforts of the following state agencies: department of human rights, Iowa department of public health, department of human services, department of education, department of natural resources, state department of transportation, and department of public safety by using the Iowa state plan for the prevention of developmental disabilities.

3. Development of a mechanism to assure ongoing coordination in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of disability prevention activities; **NOW THEREFORE,**

Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

Section 1. AGENCY ACTIVITIES REQUIRED.

The governor's planning council for developmental disabilities shall convene representatives of the department of human rights, Iowa department of public health, department of human services, department of education, department of natural resources, state department of transportation, and department of public safety, to perform the following activities:

1. Identify a unit within the respective state agency which has responsibility for identification of existing prevention programs and activities including the unit, bureau, or division of a department which has responsibility for prevention programs or activities.

2. Jointly identify suggestions for reducing intra-agency and interagency duplication of programs.
3. Jointly identify suggestions for intra-agency and interagency coordination of programs.
4. Establish budget recommendations necessary to coordinate prevention activities.
5. Jointly, and in consultation with representatives of the senate and house of representatives, prepare a report of findings and recommendations concerning a coordinated approach to planning, implementing, and evaluating disability prevention activities and submit the report to the governor and the general assembly on or before October 1, 1990.

Approved March 30, 1990