

**CHAPTER 1194****JOINT EQUIPMENT PURCHASES BY POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS***H.F. 400*

AN ACT relating to the joint purchasing of equipment by political subdivisions of the state.

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

Section 1. REPEAL. Section 28E.20, Code 1995, is repealed.

Approved May 20, 1996

**CHAPTER 1195****DOMESTIC RELATIONS – MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS***S.F. 2265*

AN ACT relating to domestic relations including the required participation of parents in a mandatory course prior to the granting of a dissolution of marriage decree and certain other orders, and providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 598.7A, Code Supplement 1995, is amended to read as follows:

**598.7A ~~DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE~~ DOMESTIC RELATIONS PROCEEDING – MEDIATION.**

In addition to the custody mediation provided pursuant to section 598.41, unless the court determines that a history of domestic abuse exists as specified in section 598.41, subsection 3, paragraph “j”, or unless the court determines that direct physical harm or significant emotional harm to the child, other children, or a parent is likely to result, or unless the action involves a child support or medical support obligation enforced by the child support recovery unit, on the application of either party, or on the court’s own motion, the court may require shall determine in each domestic relations proceeding or modification of any order relating to those proceedings whether the parties to the proceeding shall participate in mediation to attempt to resolve differences between the parties relative to the granting of a marriage dissolution decree, if the court determines that mediation may effectuate a resolution of the differences without court intervention. The court may order participation in mediation at any time prior to the entering of a final order or the granting of a final decree.

The costs of mediation shall be paid in full or in part by the parties, as determined by the court and taxed as court costs.

Sec. 2. **NEW SECTION.** 598.19A MANDATORY COURSE – PARTIES TO CERTAIN PROCEEDINGS.

1. The parties to any action which involves the issues of child custody or visitation shall participate in a court-approved course to educate and sensitize the parties to the needs of any child or party during and subsequent to the proceeding within forty-five days of the service of notice and petition for the action or within forty-five days of the service of notice and application for modification of an order. Participation in the course may be waived or delayed by the court for good cause including, but not limited to, a default by any of the parties. Participation in the course is not required if the proceeding involves termination of parental rights of any of the parties. A final decree shall not be granted or a final order shall not be entered until the parties have complied with this section.