

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 Section 28E.20, Code 1995, is repealed.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

2. Each party shall be responsible for arranging for participation in the course and for payment of the costs of participation in the course.

3. Each party shall submit certification of completion of the course to the court prior to the granting of a final decree or the entry of an order.

4. Each judicial district shall certify approved courses for parties required to participate in a course under this section. Approved courses may include those provided by a public or private entity. At a minimum and as appropriate, an approved course shall include information relating to the parents regarding divorce and its impact on the children and family relationship, parenting skills for divorcing parents, children's needs and coping techniques, and the financial responsibilities of parents following divorce.

5. In addition to the provisions of this section relating to the required participation in a court-approved course by the parties to an action as described in subsection 1, the court may require age-appropriate counseling for children who are involved in a dissolution of marriage action. The counseling may be provided by a public or private entity approved by the court. The costs of the counseling shall be taxed as court costs.

6. The supreme court may prescribe rules to implement this section.

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. Section 2 of this Act takes effect January 1, 1997.

Approved May 20, 1996

CHAPTER 1196

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND PUBLIC UTILITY REGULATION

S.F. 2370

AN ACT relating to energy efficiency programs, electric and gas public utility energy efficiency mandates, and the Iowa energy center and the center for global and regional environmental research and requiring the location of a principal office within the state and providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 476.1, unnumbered paragraph 7, Code 1995, is amended to read as follows:

The jurisdiction of the board under this chapter shall include ~~programs~~ efforts designed to promote the use of energy efficiency strategies by rate or service-regulated gas and electric utilities. ~~These programs shall be cost effective. The board may initiate these programs as pilot projects to accumulate sufficient data to determine if the programs meet the requirements of this paragraph.~~

Sec. 2. Section 476.1A, subsections 5 and 6, Code 1995, are amended to read as follows:

5. Assessment of fees for the support of the Iowa energy center created in section 266.39C and the center for global warming and regional environmental research established by the state board of regents.

6. Filing energy efficiency plans and energy efficiency results with the board. The energy efficiency plans as a whole shall be cost-effective. The board may permit these utilities to file joint plans.

Sec. 3. Section 476.1A, unnumbered paragraph 2, Code 1995, is amended to read as follows: