

**House File 85 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 85

BY JACOBY

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act creating a specialty court for human trafficking.

2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 602.6114 Human trafficking court.

2 1. A human trafficking court is established in the most  
3 populous judicial district. The court shall provide court  
4 services to offenders found to be human trafficking victims and  
5 integrate court sanctions and incentives with alcohol abuse  
6 and drug abuse treatment and counseling, human trafficking  
7 victim treatment and counseling, and other related treatment  
8 and rehabilitation in a judicially supervised court setting.

9 2. The human trafficking court shall incorporate all of the  
10 following essential characteristics into its operations and  
11 proceedings:

12 a. Integration of justice system case processing with human  
13 trafficking victim resources.

14 b. Use of a nonadversarial approach, whereby prosecution  
15 and defense counsel promote public safety while protecting  
16 participants' due process rights.

17 c. Early and prompt identification and coordinated placement  
18 of eligible participants in treatment programs.

19 d. Coordination of access to a continuum of trauma  
20 counseling, housing, alcohol and drug addiction recovery  
21 services, and related treatment and rehabilitation services.

22 e. Adoption of a strategy that governs human trafficking  
23 court responses to participants' compliance with treatment  
24 programs.

25 f. Ongoing judicial interaction with all participants in the  
26 human trafficking court services.

27 g. Monitoring and evaluation of participants and treatment  
28 programs to measure the achievement of treatment goals and  
29 gauge treatment effectiveness.

30 h. Continuing interdisciplinary education to promote  
31 effective human trafficking court planning and operations.

32 i. Formation of partnerships among human trafficking  
33 treatment courts, public agencies, and community-based  
34 organizations that enhance human trafficking court  
35 effectiveness.

1 3. The chief judge of the judicial district in which the  
2 human trafficking court is established shall designate one or  
3 more district judges or district associate judges to act as a  
4 judge of the human trafficking court for the judicial district.

5 4. A district judge or district associate judge designated  
6 as a judge of the human trafficking court pursuant to  
7 subsection 3 may exercise the jurisdiction of the human  
8 trafficking court.

9 5. The designation of a judge as a human trafficking court  
10 judge does not deprive the judge of other judicial functions.  
11 Any district judge or district associate judge may act as a  
12 human trafficking court judge during the absence of, inability  
13 to act by, or at the request of a designated human trafficking  
14 court judge.

15 6. The supreme court shall prescribe rules establishing  
16 the jurisdiction of the human trafficking court and providing  
17 for the administration of the human trafficking court in this  
18 state.

19 Sec. 2. Section 602.6306, subsection 2, Code 2023, is  
20 amended to read as follows:

21 2. District associate judges also have jurisdiction  
22 in civil actions for money judgment where the amount in  
23 controversy does not exceed ten thousand dollars; jurisdiction  
24 over involuntary commitment, treatment, or hospitalization  
25 proceedings under [chapters 125](#) and [229](#); jurisdiction of  
26 indictable misdemeanors, class "D" felony violations, and  
27 other felony arraignments; jurisdiction to enter a temporary  
28 or emergency order of protection under [chapter 235F](#) or [236](#),  
29 and to make court appointments and set hearings in criminal  
30 matters; jurisdiction to enter orders in probate which do not  
31 require notice and hearing and to set hearings in actions under  
32 [chapter 633](#) or [633A](#); and the jurisdiction provided in section  
33 602.7101 when designated as a judge of the juvenile court; and  
34 the jurisdiction provided in section 602.6114 when designated  
35 as a judge of the human trafficking court. While presiding in

1 these subject matters a district associate judge shall employ  
2 district judges' practice and procedure.

3 EXPLANATION

4 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
5 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

6 This bill establishes a human trafficking court in the most  
7 populous judicial district and requires the court to serve  
8 offenders that are human trafficking victims and integrate  
9 court sanctions and incentives with appropriate treatment and  
10 rehabilitation.

11 The bill identifies a series of essential characteristics  
12 that the court must incorporate into its operations and  
13 proceedings, and requires the chief judge to designate one  
14 or more district judges or district associate judges to act  
15 as a judge for and exercise the jurisdiction of the human  
16 trafficking court.