

**Senate File 454 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 454  
BY COMMITTEE ON HUMAN  
RESOURCES

(SUCCESSOR TO SSB 1208)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act establishing a study relating to the health and  
2 well-being of children in this state.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND WELL-BEING WORKGROUP. The  
2 department of human services, in cooperation with the  
3 departments of education and public health, is requested to  
4 facilitate a workgroup of stakeholders to study and make  
5 recommendations relating to children's health and well-being  
6 in this state. The issues that may be considered by the  
7 workgroup include developing a strategic plan for data  
8 systems to provide an overview of health and well-being of  
9 children in this state; creating a comprehensive system of  
10 care for children that incorporates a coordinated response  
11 to adverse childhood experiences and extreme child poverty  
12 and homelessness across many disciplines including education,  
13 public health, mental health, child welfare, and child welfare  
14 systems and services; building interdepartmental awareness of  
15 adverse childhood experiences and extreme child poverty and  
16 homelessness and creating interdepartmental strategies for  
17 helping improve child health and well-being and understanding  
18 impacts on education and employment outcomes; examining child  
19 care quality and affordability; and determining how government  
20 can create community partnerships to help address issues of  
21 child well-being. In carrying out the charge of the workgroup,  
22 the workgroup shall review a 2014 report by the children's  
23 defense fund on the state of America's children containing  
24 the most recent and reliable national and state-by-state  
25 data on many complex issues affecting children's health and  
26 well-being, including data on more than 7,000 homeless public  
27 school students in Iowa. The workgroup shall develop and  
28 recommend proactive strategies across state systems to address  
29 these most complex needs of children's health and well-being  
30 which will also aid different populations of children with  
31 fewer challenges. The workgroup shall submit a report on the  
32 study and make recommendations to the governor and the general  
33 assembly on or before December 15, 2015.

34

EXPLANATION

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The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with

1           the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

2       This bill requests the departments of human services, in  
3 cooperation with the departments of education and public  
4 health, to facilitate a workgroup of stakeholders to study  
5 and make recommendations relating to children's health and  
6 well-being in this state. The issues that may be considered  
7 by the workgroup include developing a strategic plan for  
8 data systems to provide an overview of health and well-being  
9 of children in this state; creating a comprehensive system  
10 of care for children that incorporates a coordinated  
11 response to adverse childhood experiences and extreme child  
12 poverty and homelessness across many disciplines; building  
13 interdepartmental awareness of adverse childhood experiences  
14 and extreme child poverty and homelessness and creating  
15 interdepartmental strategies for helping improve child  
16 health and well-being; examining child care quality and  
17 affordability; and determining how government can create  
18 community partnerships. In carrying out the charge of the  
19 workgroup, the workgroup shall review a 2014 report by the  
20 children's defense fund on the state of America's children  
21 including data on more than 7,000 homeless public school  
22 students in Iowa. The workgroup shall develop and recommend  
23 proactive strategies across state systems to address complex  
24 needs of children's health and well-being, and shall submit a  
25 report and make recommendations to the governor and the general  
26 assembly on or before December 15, 2015.