

CHAPTER 1141**HEALTH CARE FACILITY INSPECTION RECORDS AND
HEALTH CARE PROVIDER RECORD CHECKS***H.F. 2275*

AN ACT relating to health care providers including the application of records checks to additional providers and the recording and availability of the records of the facility inspections and providing for a repeal.

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

Section 1. NEW SECTION. 135C.20A REPORT CARDS — FACILITY INSPECTIONS — COMPLAINT PROCEDURES — AVAILABILITY TO PUBLIC — ELECTRONIC ACCESS.

1. The department shall develop and utilize a report card system for the recording of the findings of any inspection of a health care facility. The report card shall include but is not limited to a summary of the findings of the inspection, any violation found, any enforcement action taken including any citations issued and penalties assessed, any actions taken to correct violations or deficiencies, and the nature and status of any action taken with respect to any uncorrected violation for which a citation was issued.

2. The report card form shall be developed by the department in cooperation with representatives of the department of elder affairs, the state long-term care resident's advocate, representatives of care review committees, representatives of protection and advocacy entities, consumers, and other interested persons.

3. The department shall make any completed report cards electronically accessible to the public, on a monthly basis, and shall compile the report cards on an annual basis and make the compilation electronically accessible to the public. The annual compilation shall also be available at the office of the department at the seat of government and shall be available to the public by mail, upon request and at the department's expense.

4. In addition to the monthly and annual compilations, the department shall provide compilations of the report cards on a cumulative basis. The cumulative compilation shall reflect the report cards of health care facilities during the four-year period prior to the production of the cumulative compilation. The cumulative compilation shall be applicable to a particular health care facility as a four-year report card history of that facility becomes available. The cumulative compilation shall be available to the public in the same manner as the annual compilation.

Sec. 2. Section 135C.33, Code Supplement 1997, is amended to read as follows:

135C.33 CHILD OR DEPENDENT ADULT ABUSE INFORMATION AND CRIMINAL RECORDS — EVALUATIONS — APPLICATION TO OTHER PROVIDERS.

1. Beginning July 1, 1997, prior to employment of a person in a facility, the facility shall request that the department of public safety perform criminal and dependent adult abuse record checks of the person in this state. In addition, the facility may request that the department of human services perform a child abuse record check in this state. Beginning July 1, 1997, a facility shall inform all persons prior to employment regarding the performance of the records checks and shall obtain, from the persons, a signed acknowledgment of the receipt of the information. Additionally, a facility shall include the following inquiry in an application for employment: "Do you have a record of founded child or dependent adult abuse or have you ever been convicted of a crime, in this state or any other state?" If the person has been convicted of a crime under a law of any state or has a record of founded child or dependent adult abuse, the department of human services shall perform an evaluation to determine whether the crime or founded child or dependent adult abuse warrants prohibition of employment in the facility. The evaluation shall be performed in accordance with procedures adopted for this purpose by the department of human services. If a person

owns or operates more than one facility, and an employee of one of such facilities is transferred to another such facility without a lapse in employment, the facility is not required to request additional criminal and dependent adult abuse record checks of that employee.

2. If the department of public safety determines that a person has committed a crime or has a record of founded dependent adult abuse and is to be employed in a facility licensed under this chapter, the department of public safety shall notify the licensee that an evaluation will be conducted by the department of human services to determine whether prohibition of the person's employment is warranted. If a department of human services child abuse record check determines the person has a record of founded child abuse, the department shall inform the licensee that an evaluation will be conducted to determine whether prohibition of the person's employment is warranted.

3. In an evaluation, the department of human services shall consider the nature and seriousness of the crime or founded child or dependent adult abuse in relation to the position sought or held, the time elapsed since the commission of the crime or founded child or dependent adult abuse, the circumstances under which the crime or founded child or dependent adult abuse was committed, the degree of rehabilitation, the likelihood that the person will commit the crime or founded child or dependent adult abuse again, and the number of crimes or founded child or dependent adult abuses committed by the person involved. The department of human services has final authority in determining whether prohibition of the person's employment is warranted.

4. If the department of human services determines that the person has committed a crime or has a record of founded child or dependent adult abuse which warrants prohibition of employment, the person shall not be employed in a facility licensed under this chapter.

5. Beginning July 1, 1998, this section shall apply to prospective employees of all of the following, if the provider is regulated by the state or receives any state or federal funding:

a. An employee of a homemaker, home-health aide, home-care aide, adult day care, or other provider of in-home services if the employee provides direct services to consumers.

b. An employee of a hospice, if the employee provides direct services to consumers.

c. An employee who provides direct services to consumers under a federal home and community-based services waiver.

In substantial conformance with the provisions of this section, prior to the employment of such an employee, the provider shall request the performance of the criminal and dependent adult abuse record checks and may request the performance of the child abuse record. The provider shall inform the prospective employee and obtain the prospective employee's signed acknowledgment. The department of human services shall perform the evaluation of any criminal record or founded child or dependent adult abuse record and shall make the determination of whether a prospective employee of a provider shall not be employed by the provider.

Sec. 3. Section 135C.47, Code 1997, is repealed.

Approved April 22, 1998