

**House File 113 - Enrolled**

House File 113

AN ACT

RELATING TO THE STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER PILOT PROJECT FOR CHILD  
WELFARE LEGAL REPRESENTATION.

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

Section 1. Section 13B.13, Code 2023, is amended to read as follows:

**13B.13 State public defender pilot project — child welfare legal representation.**

Notwithstanding any other provision of the law to the contrary, for each fiscal year for the period beginning July 1, 2020, and ending June 30, ~~2024~~ 2025, the state public defender may establish a pilot project to implement innovative models of legal representation in order to assist families involved in the child welfare system. The state public defender shall have sole discretion to establish and implement the pilot project. The state public defender may implement the new pilot project in up to ~~six~~ sixteen counties throughout the state. The purpose of the pilot project is to implement and study innovative ways, through a team approach or through other methods, to achieve positive outcomes for families, reduce trauma to young children, and deliver financial benefits to families and their communities. The state public defender may coordinate with other agencies and organizations to implement the pilot project, seek grant funding, and measure the results. The state public defender may appoint an attorney to represent an indigent person prior to initiation of formal

proceedings, without court order, if such representation is deemed appropriate by the state public defender and relates to the purposes of the pilot project.

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PAT GRASSLEY  
Speaker of the House

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AMY SINCLAIR  
President of the Senate

I hereby certify that this bill originated in the House and is known as House File 113, Ninetieth General Assembly.

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MEGHAN NELSON  
Chief Clerk of the House

Approved \_\_\_\_\_, 2023

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KIM REYNOLDS  
Governor