

1-30-95 Judiciary

FILED JAN 30 1995

SENATE FILE 71
BY HALVORSON

Passed Senate, Date _____ Passed House, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the required participation of parents of minor
2 children in a seminar prior to the granting of a dissolution
3 of marriage decree.

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

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S.F. 71

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 598.19A MANDATORY SEMINARS --
2 PARENTS OF MINOR CHILDREN.

3 1. A decree dissolving the marriage of the parents of a
4 minor child shall not be granted until the parents have
5 participated in a seminar regarding the effects of dissolution
6 of marriage on a minor child. The court shall require the
7 parties to participate in a seminar for a period of four
8 hours.

9 2. A majority of the judges in a judicial district shall
10 establish the seminars, in cooperation with the department of
11 human services. The seminars shall be scheduled at not more
12 than two-week intervals, at locations which are convenient for
13 and accessible to the parties to the dissolution. The seminar
14 shall include, but is not limited to, information regarding
15 the effects of dissolution on a minor child and instructions
16 for coping with the effects.

17 3. The court shall establish a fee for the seminar which
18 reflects the actual cost of the seminar. The fee shall be
19 paid in full or in part by the parties as directed by the
20 court and shall be taxed as a court cost.

21 4. Notwithstanding the requirement of participation in the
22 seminar established in this section, a decree may be granted
23 prior to fulfillment of the requirement if a party
24 demonstrates that the other party refuses to participate in
25 the seminar.

26 EXPLANATION

27 This bill requires that the parents of a minor child
28 seeking a dissolution of marriage participate in a seminar
29 regarding the effects and means of coping with the effects of
30 a dissolution of marriage on a minor child. A majority of the
31 judges in a judicial district are required to establish the
32 seminars in cooperation with the department of human services.
33 The bill requires the court to establish a fee for provision
34 of the seminar, which is to be paid in full or in part by the
35 parties as a court cost. Notwithstanding the required

1 participation of parents of a minor child in the seminar, a
2 dissolution of marriage decree may be granted if one party
3 demonstrates the refusal of the other party to participate.

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