

MAR 5 1998
HUMAN RESOURCES

HOUSE FILE 2531
BY SIEGRIST and SCHRADER

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

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to family investment program provisions to
2 address family and domestic violence and including an
3 applicability provision.

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

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HF 2531

1 Section 1. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OPTION. This Act provides
2 for the state of Iowa's implementation of the domestic
3 violence option under the federal Personal Responsibility and
4 Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, Pub. L. No. 104-
5 193 § 402(a)(7).

6 Sec. 2. Section 239B.2, subsection 6, Code Supplement
7 1997, is amended to read as follows:

8 6. COOPERATION WITH CHILD SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS. The
9 department shall provide for prompt notification of the
10 department's child support recovery unit if assistance is
11 provided to a child whose parent is absent from the home. An
12 applicant or participant shall cooperate with the child
13 support recovery unit and the department as provided in 42
14 U.S.C. § 608(a)(2) unless the applicant or participant
15 qualifies for good cause or other exception as determined by
16 the department in accordance with the best interest of the
17 child, parent, or specified relative, and with standards
18 prescribed by rule. The authorized good cause or other
19 exceptions shall include participation in a family investment
20 agreement safety plan option to address or prevent family or
21 domestic violence and other consideration given to the
22 presence of family or domestic violence. If a specified
23 relative with whom a child is residing fails to comply with
24 these cooperation requirements, a sanction shall be imposed as
25 defined by rule in accordance with state and federal law.

26 Sec. 3. Section 239B.4, Code Supplement 1997, is amended
27 by adding the following new subsection:

28 NEW SUBSECTION. 2A. The department shall develop and use
29 a screening tool for determining the likely presence of family
30 and domestic violence affecting applicant and participant
31 families. The department shall require the use of the
32 screening tool by trained employees.

33 Sec. 4. Section 239B.8, subsection 2, Code Supplement
34 1997, is amended by adding the following new paragraph:

35 NEW PARAGRAPH. i. Participation in a safety plan to

1 address or prevent family or domestic violence. The safety
2 plan may include a temporary waiver period from required
3 participation in the JOBS program or other employment-related
4 activities, as appropriate for the situation of the applicant
5 or participant. All applicants and participants shall be
6 informed regarding the existence of this option.

7 Participation in this option shall be subject to review in
8 accordance with administrative rule.

9 Sec. 5. APPLICABILITY. The department of human services
10 shall field test the screening tool requirements of section
11 239B.4, subsection 2A, as enacted by this Act, in both urban
12 and rural areas during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1998,
13 and shall apply the requirements statewide beginning July 1,
14 1999.

15 EXPLANATION

16 This bill relates to family investment program (FIP)
17 provisions to address family and domestic violence by the
18 department of human services.

19 The bill includes a statement that the bill provides for
20 Iowa's implementation of the domestic violence option
21 authorized under the federal welfare reform law.

22 Code section 239B.2, subsection 6, relating to required
23 cooperation with child support requirements under FIP, is
24 amended to provide for an exception for those participating in
25 a family investment agreement safety plan option authorized in
26 the bill and other consideration given to the presence of
27 family or domestic violence.

28 New subsection 2A of Code section 239B.4, relating to the
29 departmental role in the family investment program (FIP),
30 requires the department to develop a screening tool for use by
31 department employees in determining the likely presence of
32 family and domestic violence in FIP applicant and participant
33 families. The bill includes a temporary provision requiring
34 the department to test the screening provisions during the
35 fiscal year beginning July 1, 1998, in urban and rural areas.

1 The screening requirement is to be applied statewide beginning
2 July 1, 1999.

3 The bill amends Code section 239B.8, relating to family
4 investment agreements. The bill provides a new option so that
5 a family investment agreement may include an option for a
6 program participant to participate in a family safety plan.
7 This option may include a temporary waiver for participation
8 in the JOBS program or other employment-related activities.

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