

MAR 5 1997
JUDICIARY

HOUSE FILE
BY MUNDIE

455

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

A BILL FOR

1 An Act making it a delinquent act to be a chronic runaway.
2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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HF 455

1 Section 1. Section 232.2, subsection 12, Code 1997, is
2 amended by adding the following new paragraph:

3 NEW PARAGRAPH. c. A chronic runaway child under section
4 232B.1.

5 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 232B.1 CHRONIC RUNAWAYS --
6 DELINQUENT ACT -- EXCEPTIONS.

7 A child under the age of eighteen, who is voluntarily
8 absent three or more times for more than twenty-four hours in
9 a three-month period or on a single occasion for longer than
10 forty-eight hours from the child's home without the consent of
11 the child's parent, guardian, or custodian, commits a
12 delinquent act and constitutes a chronic runaway child. A
13 complaint under section 232.28 alleging that a child has
14 committed a delinquent act under this section shall only be
15 filed by the parent, guardian, or custodian of the child or a
16 juvenile court officer, child protective worker, or peace
17 officer. It is a defense to a petition alleging delinquency
18 under this section that the child was chronically absent from
19 the child's home to escape sexual abuse, physical abuse,
20 neglect, or criminal activity by the child's parent, guardian,
21 or custodian.

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EXPLANATION

23 This bill makes it a delinquent act for a person under age
24 18 to frequently within a three-month period or for a longer
25 period of time, voluntarily run away from home without the
26 consent of the person's parent, guardian, or custodian. Under
27 the bill, only parents, guardians, custodians, juvenile court
28 officers, protective workers, and peace officers may file a
29 complaint alleging a delinquent act under this provision.
30 Also, it is a defense to a chronic runaway complaint that the
31 person under age 18 ran away to escape physical abuse, sexual
32 abuse, neglect, or criminal activity by the parent, guardian,
33 or custodian of the person under age 18.

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