

# Senate Study Bill 2147

## Bill Text

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1 1 Section 1. Section [600.15](#), Code 1997, is amended to read  
1 2 as follows:

1 3 600.15 FOREIGN AND INTERNATIONAL ADOPTIONS.

1 4 1. a. A decree establishing a parent-child relationship  
1 5 by adoption which is issued pursuant to due process of law by  
1 6 a court of any other jurisdiction in the United States shall  
1 7 be recognized in this state.

1 8 b. A decree terminating a parent-child relationship which  
1 9 is issued pursuant to due process of law by a court of any  
1 10 other jurisdiction in the United States shall be recognized in  
1 11 this state.

1 12 c. A document approved by the immigration and  
1 13 naturalization service of the United States department of  
1 14 justice shall be accepted

~~by the department of human services~~

1 15 in this state as evidence of termination of parental rights in  
1 16 a jurisdiction outside the United States and recognized in  
1 17 this state.

1 18 2. If an adoption has occurred in the minor person's  
1 19 country of origin, a further adoption must occur in the state  
1 20 where the adopting parents reside in accordance with the  
1 21 adoption laws of that state.

1 22 3.

~~The department~~

~~A licensed child placing agency as~~

1 23 defined in section 238.2 or a certified or approved adoption  
1 24 investigator may provide necessary assistance to an eligible  
1 25 citizen of Iowa who desires to, in accordance with the  
1 26 immigration laws of the United States, make an international  
1 27 adoption.

~~For any such assistance the department may charge a~~

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~~fee which does not exceed the reasonable cost of services~~

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~~rendered and which is based on a sliding scale relating to the~~

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~~investigated person's ability to pay.~~

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~~4. Any rules of the department relating to placement of a~~

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~~minor child for adoption which are more restrictive than~~

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~~comparable rules of agencies making international placements~~

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~~and laws of the United States shall not be enforced by the~~

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~~department in an international adoption.~~

2 1

EXPLANATION

2 2 This bill transfers the responsibility of assisting  
2 3 families to make international adoptions from the department  
2 4 of human services (DHS) to licensed child placing agencies and  
2 5 certified or approved adoption investigators.

2 6 Currently, international adoptions are privately arranged  
2 7 by prospective adoptive parents and the agency or individual  
2 8 representing the foreign country. Services to assist the  
2 9 family in finalizing an international adoption are provided in  
2 10 a manner similar to private, domestic adoption. Federal law  
2 11 does not require the involvement of a state agency in  
2 12 international adoptions.

2 13 DHS is responsible for providing adoption services to  
2 14 special needs children for whom DHS acts as guardian and has  
2 15 no legal responsibility to families or children involved in  
2 16 international adoptions.

2 17 Regulatory activities are conducted by the department of  
2 18 inspections and appeals, the agency that monitors the  
2 19 activities of licensed child placing agencies and certified  
2 20 adoption investigators.

2 21 LSB 3195DP 77

2 22 pf/cf/24