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HOUSE FILE 344

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JOCHUM, HUSER, and BUKTA

HUMAN RESOURCES

Passed House, Date _____ Passed Senate, Date _____

Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____

Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing a child protection center grant program.
2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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HF 344

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 136.11 CHILD PROTECTION CENTER
2 GRANT PROGRAM.

3 1. A child protection center grant program is established
4 in the Iowa department of public health in accordance with
5 this section. The state board of health shall establish
6 requirements for the grant program and shall award grants in a
7 manner so that there is a child protection center providing
8 services in each of the five department of human services
9 region areas, as the areas were approved by the council on
10 human services pursuant to section 217.3. A grant may be used
11 for establishment of a new center or for support of an
12 existing center.

13 2. The eligibility requirements for a child protection
14 center grant shall include but are not limited to all of the
15 following:

16 a. A grantee must meet or be in the process of meeting the
17 standards established by the national children's alliance for
18 children's advocacy centers.

19 b. A grantee must have in place an interagency memorandum
20 of understanding regarding participation in the operation of
21 the center and for coordinating the activities of the
22 government entities that respond to cases of child abuse in
23 order to facilitate the appropriate disposition of child abuse
24 cases through the juvenile and criminal justice systems.
25 Agencies participating under the memorandum must include the
26 following that are operating in the area served by the
27 grantee:

28 (1) Department of human services county offices assigned
29 to child protection.

30 (2) County and municipal law enforcement agencies.

31 (3) Office of the county attorney.

32 (4) Other government agencies involved with child abuse
33 assessments or service provision.

34 c. The interagency memorandum must provide for a
35 cooperative team approach to responding to child abuse,

1 reducing the number of interviews required of a victim of
2 child abuse, and establishing an approach that emphasizes the
3 best interest of the child and that provides investigation,
4 assessment, and rehabilitative services.

5 d. As necessary to address serious cases of child abuse
6 such as those involving sexual abuse, serious physical abuse,
7 and substance abuse, a grantee must be able to involve or
8 consult with persons from various professional disciplines who
9 have training and expertise in addressing special types of
10 child abuse. These persons may include but are not limited to
11 physicians and other health care professionals, mental health
12 professionals, social workers, child protection workers,
13 attorneys, juvenile court officers, public health workers,
14 child development experts, child educators, and child
15 advocates.

16 3. The state board of health shall create a committee to
17 consider grant proposals and to make grant recommendations to
18 the state board. The committee membership may include but is
19 not limited to representatives of the following: departments
20 of human services, justice, and public health, Iowa medical
21 society, Iowa hospital association, Iowa nurses association,
22 and an association representing social workers.

23 4. Implementation of the grant program is subject to the
24 availability of funding for the grant program.

25 EXPLANATION

26 This bill establishes a child protection center grant
27 program in the Iowa department of public health with grants to
28 be awarded by the state board of health.

29 Grants are to be awarded in a manner so that each of the
30 five department of human services regions is served by a child
31 protection center. The bill specifies eligibility
32 requirements for a grant, including meeting national
33 standards, having in place an interagency memorandum of
34 understanding, utilizing a cooperative team approach in
35 addressing cases of child abuse, and ability to involve or

1 consult with professionals with special expertise or training
2 in child abuse. The state board of health is to utilize a
3 committee to consider grant proposals and to make grant
4 recommendations to the board and a list of possible members of
5 the committee is provided. Implementation of the grant
6 program is made subject to the availability of funding for the
7 program.

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**HOUSE FILE 344
FISCAL NOTE**

A fiscal note for **House File 344** is hereby submitted pursuant to Joint Rule 17. Data used in developing this fiscal note is available from the Legislative Fiscal Bureau to members of the Legislature upon request.

House File 344 creates a child protection center grant program within the Iowa Department of Public Health and specifies the manner in which the grants are to be awarded as well as eligibility requirements for the grants.

ASSUMPTIONS

1. In the first year of development of the grant program, the Department of Public Health would require 1.0 FTE position for a Community Health Consultant to develop and implement the grant program, provide training and/or consultation, and technical assistance to five regional Department of Human Services grantees. Costs incurred for the Community Health Consultant would be approximately \$55,000 for FY 2002. In FY 2003, the grant program would be established and the Department would only require 0.5 FTE position for the Community Health Consultant. For FY 2003, costs incurred for the Community Health Consultant would be reduced by 50.0% totalling approximately \$28,000.
2. The Department would also require 0.25 FTE position for a Secretary to provide clerical support. The total salary costs for the Secretary in FY 2002 would be approximately \$11,000. The same cost would be incurred for FY 2003.
3. The estimated fiscal impact of the proposed legislation does not include any funding for the grants to be awarded as specified in the Bill nor does the estimate include any costs associated with the creation and support of a committee to consider grant proposals.

FISCAL IMPACT

The FY 2002 General Fund Impact of House File 344 would be approximately \$70,000. For FY 2003 the cost would be reduced to \$43,000 due to lower staffing requirements once the program has been established.

SOURCES

Iowa Department of Public Health
Iowa Department of Human Services

(LSB 2413HH, RIT)

FILED MARCH 12, 2001

BY DENNIS PROUTY, FISCAL DIRECTOR