

FEB 5 2003
HUMAN RESOURCES

HOUSE FILE 128
BY CONNORS

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

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to counseling for runaway children.
2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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HF 128

1 Section 1. Section 232.19, subsection 1, paragraph c, Code
2 2003, is amended to read as follows:

3 c. By a peace officer, when the peace officer has
4 reasonable grounds to believe the child has run away from the
5 child's parents, guardian, or custodian, for the purposes of
6 determining whether the child shall be reunited with the
7 child's parents, guardian, or custodian, placed in shelter
8 care, or, if the child is a chronic runaway and the county has
9 an approved county runaway treatment plan, placed in a runaway
10 assessment center under section 232.196. If the county does
11 not have an approved runaway treatment plan or the child is
12 not a chronic runaway, the child, together with the child's
13 parent, guardian, or custodian, shall participate in a brief
14 counseling session, if such services are available in the
15 county, addressing the reasons why the child has run away.
16 The counseling may occur at a shelter care facility or another
17 location.

18 Sec. 2. Section 232.195, Code 2003, is amended to read as
19 follows:

20 232.195 RUNAWAY TREATMENT PLAN.

21 A county may develop a runaway treatment plan to address
22 problems with chronic runaway children in the county. The
23 plan shall identify the problems with chronic runaway children
24 in the county and specific solutions to be implemented by the
25 county, including the development of a runaway assessment
26 center. If a county has not developed a runaway treatment
27 plan or the child is not a chronic runaway, the child,
28 together with the child's parent, guardian, or custodian, may
29 participate in a counseling session as provided in section
30 232.19, subsection 1, paragraph "c".

31 EXPLANATION

32 This bill relates to counseling for runaway children. The
33 bill provides that if a county does not have an approved
34 runaway treatment plan or the child is not a chronic runaway,
35 a child who has run away and the child's parent or guardian

1 shall participate in a counseling session, if such services
2 are available in the county, addressing the reasons why the
3 child ran away. The bill provides that the counseling may
4 occur at a shelter care facility or any other location.

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