

FEB 10 2004
HUMAN RESOURCES

HOUSE FILE 2203
BY PETERSEN and HUSER

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

A BILL FOR

1 An Act directing the department of human services to implement
2 child welfare diversion and mediation pilot projects.

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

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HF 2203

1 Section 1. CHILD WELFARE MEDIATION PILOT PROJECTS. The
2 department of human services shall implement five or more
3 child welfare diversion and mediation pilot projects through
4 the offices of the county attorney. The projects shall be
5 implemented in separate counties commencing during the fiscal
6 year beginning July 1, 2004, and ending June 30, 2005. The
7 purposes of the projects are to divert selected child abuse
8 and neglect cases that may otherwise result in a child in need
9 of assistance adjudication, improve permanency for children,
10 promote family unification, and reduce state expenditures
11 associated with adjudication of child protection cases.
12 Selection of children and families for participation in a
13 pilot project shall be based upon diversion criteria mutually
14 agreed upon by the department and a pilot project. The
15 department shall be assisted by the pilot projects in
16 collecting data to analyze the effectiveness of the pilot
17 projects and the department shall submit an initial evaluation
18 to the general assembly on or before December 15, 2007. The
19 savings attributable to the pilot projects shall be calculated
20 and may be allocated to the projects as necessary to assist
21 with operating expenses.

22 EXPLANATION

23 This bill directs the department of human services to
24 implement five or more child welfare diversion and mediation
25 pilot projects through the offices of the county attorney.
26 The projects are to be implemented beginning in fiscal year
27 2004-2005 in separate counties. The pilot projects are to
28 fulfill purposes stated in the bill and are to assist the
29 department in data collection to evaluate effectiveness. An
30 initial evaluation is due to the general assembly on or before
31 December 15, 2007. Savings attributed to the pilot projects
32 may be allocated to the projects to assist with operating
33 expenses.

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