

MAR 13 2003  
HUMAN RESOURCES

HOUSE FILE 536  
BY FOEGE

Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act establishing an independent living transition services  
2 program in the department of human services for older children  
3 and young adults who have been subject to court-ordered out-  
4 of-home placement.

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

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HF 536

1 Section 1. Section 234.1, Code 2003, is amended by adding  
2 the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 2A. "Department" means the department of  
4 human services.

5 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 234.5 INDEPENDENT LIVING TRANSITION  
6 SERVICES PROGRAM.

7 1. An independent living transition services program is  
8 established in the department. The purpose of the program is  
9 to enable older children in a court-ordered out-of-home  
10 placement and young adults who exit such a placement at age  
11 eighteen to make the transition to self-sufficiency upon  
12 reaching adulthood.

13 2. The program shall include but is not limited to all of  
14 the following components, for children ages thirteen through  
15 seventeen:

16 a. Program elements intended to achieve the purposes of  
17 providing assistance to program participants in obtaining life  
18 skills and education for independent living and employment,  
19 for the participants to have a quality of life appropriate for  
20 the participants' age, and for participants to assume personal  
21 responsibility for becoming self-sufficient adults.

22 b. Independent living transition services may occur  
23 concurrently with permanency efforts.

24 c. Pre-independent living services shall be made available  
25 to participants who are ages thirteen and fourteen and may  
26 include life skills services such as independent living skills  
27 training, educational support, employment training, and  
28 counseling. Services provided shall be based upon a skills  
29 assessment of the child.

30 d. Transition services made available to participants who  
31 are ages fifteen, sixteen, and seventeen may include  
32 subsidized independent living arrangements. Related services  
33 shall be provided based upon a needs assessment and may  
34 include a plan for future educational, vocational, and  
35 training skills; development of financial and budgeting

1 skills; a plan for improving personal resources and abilities;  
2 a description of proposed residential settings; documentation  
3 that the child understands the consequences of the child's  
4 conduct in the program; and a plan for the child maintaining  
5 or developing relationships with family, other adults,  
6 friends, and the community, as appropriate.

7 e. Transition services available to participants who are  
8 ages thirteen through seventeen may also include opportunities  
9 to participate in and learn from other age-appropriate life  
10 skills activities which may include managing money earned from  
11 a job, taking driver's education, and participating in after-  
12 school or extracurricular activities. To implement these  
13 services, the department may offer certain programs to all  
14 children in foster care and to the associated foster families,  
15 provide specialized training to the foster parents of the  
16 children, provide supported employment, facilitate mentoring  
17 of the children, and implement a personal allowance program  
18 for the children to exercise personal responsibility.

19 3. The program shall include but is not limited to all of  
20 the following components for young adults formerly in a court-  
21 ordered placement with the department and are ages eighteen  
22 through twenty-two:

23 a. The program shall include aftercare support services  
24 which may include referral to community resources for  
25 mentoring and tutoring, mental health services and substance  
26 abuse counseling, life skills classes in credit management and  
27 preventive health activities, parenting classes, and job  
28 skills training.

29 b. Services shall be provided based upon a needs  
30 assessment. The program may include temporary assistance to  
31 prevent homelessness.

32 4. The department shall implement assessment and  
33 eligibility provisions to ensure that the programs and  
34 services provided pursuant to this section are appropriate to  
35 the need for the programs and services.

EXPLANATION

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This bill establishes an independent living transition services program in the department of human services for older children and young adults who have been subject to court-ordered out-of-home placement in Code chapter 234, relating to child and family services provided by the department.

The program components for older children are to be directed to children ages 13 through 17. The program components for young adults are to be directed to persons who were formerly in a court-ordered placement with the department and are ages 18 through 22.

The department is required to implement assessment and eligibility provisions to ensure that the programs and services provided are appropriate to the need for the programs and services.