

House File 2309 - Introduced

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BY RUNNING-MARQUARDT

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the period for renewal of a foster care
2 license.

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

1 Section 1. Section 237.5, subsection 1, Code 2011, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 1. An individual or an agency shall apply for a license
4 by completing an application to the administrator upon forms
5 furnished by the administrator. The administrator shall issue
6 or reissue a license if the administrator determines that the
7 applicant or licensee is or upon commencing operation will
8 provide child foster care in compliance with this chapter. A
9 An initial license for an individual is valid for one year from
10 the date of issuance. After the first two years of licensure,
11 a license for an individual is valid for two years from the
12 most recent date of issuance except that the administrator,
13 within the administrator's discretion and based upon the
14 performance of the licensee, may require annual renewal of
15 the license or may issue a provisional license pursuant to
16 subsection 3. A license for an agency is valid for up to three
17 years from the date of issuance for the period determined by
18 the administrator in accordance with administrative rules
19 providing criteria for making the determination. The license
20 shall state on its face the name of the licensee, the type of
21 facility, the particular premises for which the license is
22 issued, and the number of children who may be cared for by
23 the facility on the premises at one time. The license shall
24 be posted in a conspicuous place in the physical plant of the
25 facility, except that if the facility is in a single-family
26 home the license may be kept where it is readily available for
27 examination upon request.

28 Sec. 2. Section 237.5A, Code 2011, is amended to read as
29 follows:

30 **237.5A Foster parent training.**

31 1. As a condition for initial licensure, each individual
32 licensee shall complete thirty hours of foster parent
33 training offered or approved by the department. However,
34 if the licensee has completed relevant training or has a
35 combination of completed relevant training and experience,

1 and the department deems such training or combination to be
2 an acceptable equivalent to all or a portion of the initial
3 licensure training requirement, or based upon the circumstances
4 of the child and the licensee the department finds there is
5 other good cause, the department may waive all or a portion
6 of the training requirement. Prior to ~~annual~~ renewal of
7 licensure, each individual licensee shall also annually
8 complete six hours of foster parent training. The training
9 shall include but is not limited to physical care, education,
10 learning disabilities, referral to and receipt of necessary
11 professional services, behavioral assessment and modification,
12 self-assessment, self-living skills, and biological parent
13 contact. An individual licensee may complete the training as
14 part of an approved training program offered by a public or
15 private agency with expertise in the provision of child foster
16 care or in related subject areas. The department shall adopt
17 rules to implement and enforce this training requirement.

18 2. A licensee who is unable to complete six hours of foster
19 parent training annually prior to ~~annual~~ licensure renewal
20 because the licensee is engaged in active duty in the military
21 service shall be considered to be in compliance with the
22 training requirement for ~~annual~~ licensure renewal.

23 Sec. 3. RULES. The department of human services shall adopt
24 rules to implement the provisions of this Act.

25 EXPLANATION

26 This bill relates to the renewal period for foster care
27 licensing. The bill amends Code section 237.5 to increase
28 the time period a license for an individual is valid from one
29 to two years after the individual has been licensed for an
30 initial two-year period. However, the bill provides that an
31 administrator of the department of human services as defined by
32 Code chapter 237 may require annual renewal of the individual
33 license or may issue a provisional license even after this
34 initial two-year period of licensure within the administrator's
35 discretion based upon the performance of the licensee. The

1 bill also states that an individual licensee shall annually
2 complete six hours of foster parent training prior to licensure
3 renewal rather than completing six hours of training prior to
4 the annual licensure renewal.

5 The bill requires the department of human services to adopt
6 rules to implement the Act.