

**House File 309 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 309

BY HEATON

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to visitation or interaction with siblings  
2 by children participating in the subsidized guardianship  
3 program administered by the department of human services and  
4 including effective date provisions.

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

1 Section 1. SUBSIDIZED GUARDIANSHIP PROGRAM — SIBLING  
2 VISITATION. The department of human services shall adapt the  
3 provisions of section 232.108 for application to the subsidized  
4 guardianship program in order to facilitate frequent visitation  
5 or ongoing interaction between children participating in  
6 the subsidized guardianship program for application to the  
7 subsidized guardianship program and the siblings of those  
8 children. However, the visitation or ongoing interaction shall  
9 not be facilitated if the department determines the visitation  
10 or ongoing interaction would be detrimental to the child's  
11 well-being or is suspended or terminated by the court.

12 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE UPON ENACTMENT. This Act, being deemed of  
13 immediate importance, takes effect upon enactment.

14 EXPLANATION

15 This bill requires the department of human services to  
16 adapt the provisions of Code section 232.108 for application  
17 to the subsidized guardianship program administered by  
18 the department in order to facilitate frequent visitation  
19 or ongoing interaction between children participating in  
20 the program and the siblings of those children. However,  
21 facilitation of the visiting or interaction is not required if  
22 the department determines the visitation or ongoing interaction  
23 would be detrimental to the child's well-being or is suspended  
24 or terminated by the court.

25 The subsidized guardianship program was approved by the  
26 federal government as a five-year demonstration project to  
27 operate from February 1, 2007, through January 31, 2012.  
28 However, the department ended new enrollment in the program  
29 effective September 1, 2010.

30 The bill takes effect upon enactment.