

House File 2251 - Introduced

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BY DAWSON

A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing a family treatment court for a child
2 adjudicated a child in need of assistance, and including an
3 effective date provision.

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

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 232.105 Family treatment court.

2 1. For purposes of this section, "family treatment court"
3 means a court program that uses a community-based approach to
4 substance abuse treatment by supporting the family of a child
5 adjudicated a child in need of assistance in order for the
6 family to remain in the role as the primary custodian of the
7 child or to regain custody of the child.

8 2. a. A family treatment court is created within the
9 juvenile court in each county in this state to offer voluntary
10 treatment services to the parent or guardian of a child based
11 upon a finding of either of the conditions defined under
12 section 232.2, subsection 6, paragraph "n" or "o".

13 b. The juvenile court may offer family treatment court as
14 an option to the parent or guardian of the child based upon a
15 finding of any of the other conditions defined under section
16 232.2, subsection 6.

17 3. The parent or guardian of a child shall not be required
18 to participate in the family treatment court. However, the
19 family treatment court may establish terms and conditions for
20 participation of a parent or guardian.

21 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect January 1,
22 2015.

23

EXPLANATION

24 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
25 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

26 This bill establishes a family treatment court for a child
27 adjudicated a child in need of assistance.

28 The bill defines "family treatment court" to mean a
29 voluntary juvenile court program that uses a community-based
30 approach to substance abuse treatment by supporting the family
31 of a child adjudicated a child in need of assistance in order
32 for the family to remain in the role as the primary custodian
33 of the child or to regain custody of the child.

34 The bill provides that a family treatment court is created
35 within the juvenile court in each county in this state to offer

1 voluntary treatment services to the parent or guardian of a
2 child based upon a finding of the parent's or guardian's mental
3 capacity or condition, imprisonment, or drug or alcohol abuse
4 that resulted in the child not receiving adequate care, or
5 based upon the presence of an illegal drug in the child because
6 of the acts or omissions of the child's parent or guardian.

7 The bill further specifies that the juvenile court may offer
8 family treatment court as an option to the parent or guardian
9 of a child adjudicated a child in need of assistance based upon
10 a finding of any of the other conditions defined under Code
11 section 232.2, subsection 6.

12 A parent or guardian of a child is not required to
13 participate in the family treatment court. However, the bill
14 specifies that the family treatment court may establish terms
15 and conditions for participation of a parent or guardian.

16 The bill takes effect on January 1, 2015.