

**Senate File 2004 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 2004

BY BREITBACH

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to factors considered in determining the best  
2 interest of the child in child custody arrangements.

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

1 Section 1. Section 598.41, subsection 3, Code 2014, is  
2 amended by adding the following new paragraph:

3 NEW PARAGRAPH. 1. Whether a parent has a consistent pattern  
4 of specific conduct or a specific condition directly relating  
5 to the parent-child relationship which is determined by the  
6 court to be of a duration or nature that renders the parent  
7 unable, for the reasonably foreseeable future, to act as a  
8 suitable custodian for the child, including whether the parent  
9 has a medically verifiable emotional illness, mental illness,  
10 mental deficiency, or substance-related disorder as defined in  
11 section 125.2.

12 EXPLANATION

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

15 This bill adds to the factors for consideration by the court  
16 in determining what custody arrangement is in the best interest  
17 of the child, whether a parent has a consistent pattern of  
18 specific conduct or a specific condition directly relating to  
19 the parent-child relationship which is determined by the court  
20 to be of a duration or nature that renders the parent unable,  
21 for the reasonably foreseeable future, to act as a suitable  
22 custodian for the child, including whether the parent has a  
23 medically verifiable emotional illness, mental illness, mental  
24 deficiency, or substance-related disorder.