

**Senate File 144 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 144

BY PETERSEN

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act establishing a refugee family support services pilot  
2 program, making appropriations, and including effective date  
3 provisions.

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

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 217.41A Refugee family support  
2 services pilot program.

3 1. The bureau of refugee services shall establish, promote,  
4 and administer a refugee family support services pilot program  
5 for purposes of providing grants to state, local, or community  
6 organizations working with refugee populations to contract  
7 with and train multiple refugees to act as refugee community  
8 navigators. Financial assistance under the program shall be  
9 provided from moneys allocated to the refugee family support  
10 services fund created in section 217.41B.

11 2. The organizations awarded a grant pursuant to this  
12 section shall recruit and train multiple refugee community  
13 navigators to educate and provide direct assistance to their  
14 respective refugee communities so the refugee communities can  
15 successfully access and utilize existing community resources  
16 and services.

17 3. The refugee community navigators shall train other  
18 refugee community members and shall offer home-based,  
19 peer-group learning sessions about resources in the community.

20 4. The grants awarded pursuant to this section shall be  
21 used for employment costs of a program manager and community  
22 navigator coordinator, and contract and stipend costs for  
23 multiple refugee community navigators for each organization.

24 5. The bureau of refugee services shall award four grants to  
25 state, local, or community organizations through a competitive  
26 application process. The bureau shall provide moneys over a  
27 three-year period to the organizations awarded a grant.

28 6. A state, local, or community organization awarded a grant  
29 pursuant to this section shall provide the state board with  
30 annual progress reports. The bureau of refugee services shall  
31 present a report of the program goals and outcomes of each  
32 awarded grant to the general assembly.

33 7. The bureau of refugee services shall conduct a  
34 comprehensive review of the refugee family support services  
35 pilot program and shall, by December 31, 2017, submit a

1 report of its review, as well as any recommendations and cost  
2 projections of its recommendations to the governor and the  
3 general assembly.

4 8. The bureau of refugee services may expend program moneys  
5 for administrative expenses as provided by law.

6 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 217.41B Refugee family support  
7 services fund.

8 1. A refugee family support services fund is created in  
9 the state treasury under the control of the department. The  
10 fund includes but is not limited to amounts appropriated by  
11 the general assembly, and other moneys available from federal  
12 or private sources which are to be used for purposes of the  
13 refugee family support services pilot program established in  
14 section 217.41A.

15 2. Moneys remaining in the fund at the end of each fiscal  
16 year shall not revert to the general fund of the state but  
17 shall remain in the refugee family support services fund,  
18 notwithstanding section 8.33.

19 Sec. 3. REFUGEE FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES PILOT PROGRAM  
20 APPROPRIATION. There is appropriated from the general fund of  
21 the state to the department of human services for the following  
22 fiscal years, the following amounts, or so much thereof as is  
23 necessary, to be used for the purposes designated:

24 For deposit in the refugee family support services fund  
25 created in section 217.41B to be used for the purposes of the  
26 refugee family support services pilot program established in  
27 section 217.41A:

28 FY 2015-2016.....	\$	746,400
29 FY 2016-2017.....	\$	746,400
30 FY 2017-2018.....	\$	746,400

31 Of the moneys appropriated for each fiscal year, \$40,000 may  
32 be used for bureau of refugee services' administration costs  
33 for establishing, promoting, and administering the program.

34 Sec. 4. 2013 Iowa Acts, chapter 141, section 54, subsection  
35 1, paragraph b, subparagraph (4), as amended by 2014 Iowa Acts,

1 chapter 1135, section 29, is amended to read as follows:

2 (4) From the moneys appropriated in this paragraph,  
3 ~~\$210,000~~ \$500,000 shall be transferred to the department of  
4 human services for purposes of administering a pilot ~~project~~  
5 projects to provide access to international resources to Iowans  
6 and new Iowans to provide economic and leadership development  
7 resulting in Iowa being a more inclusive and welcoming place  
8 to live, work, and raise a family. The pilot ~~project~~ projects  
9 shall provide supplemental support services for international  
10 refugees to improve learning, literacy, cultural competencies,  
11 and ~~assimilation~~ integration in ~~10~~ 4 locations ~~within a county~~  
12 ~~with a population over 350,000 as determined by the 2010~~  
13 ~~federal decennial census.~~ The department of human services  
14 shall utilize a request for proposals process to identify the  
15 ~~entity~~ entities best qualified to implement the pilot ~~project~~  
16 projects.

17 Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE UPON ENACTMENT. The section of this Act  
18 amending 2013 Iowa Acts, chapter 141, section 54, being deemed  
19 of immediate importance, takes effect upon enactment.

20 EXPLANATION

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

23 This bill establishes a refugee family support services  
24 pilot program and makes appropriations. The bill directs the  
25 bureau of refugee services within the department of human  
26 services to establish and administer the refugee family support  
27 services pilot program to provide grants to state, local, or  
28 community organizations working with refugee populations for  
29 contracting with and training multiple refugees to act as  
30 refugee community navigators. The bill requires the grants  
31 to be used for employment costs of a program manager and a  
32 community navigator coordinator, and the contract and stipend  
33 costs for multiple refugee community navigators. The bill  
34 directs the bureau of refugee services to award four grants  
35 through a competitive application process and to provide

1 funding for those organizations over a three-year period. The  
2 bill requires the organizations selected to provide the bureau  
3 with annual progress reports and requires the bureau to present  
4 an outcomes report to the general assembly.

5 The bill appropriates \$746,400 from the general fund of  
6 the state to the department of human services in fiscal years  
7 2015-2016, 2016-2017, and 2017-2018, for deposit in the refugee  
8 family support services fund created in the bill to be used for  
9 purposes of the program established in the bill.

10 The bill increases the amount of moneys transferred to the  
11 department of human services from an appropriation from the  
12 Iowa skilled worker and job creation fund created in Code  
13 section 9.75 to the department of education for an organization  
14 to provide resources and support services for international  
15 refugees for FY 2014-2015. The bill increases the number of  
16 projects and decreases the number of locations that may provide  
17 such supplemental support services for international refugees.  
18 These provisions are made immediately effective.