

Senate File 79 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 79

BY McCOY

A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing a case navigator pilot program, making
2 appropriations, and including effective date provisions.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 13B.9A Case navigator pilot
2 program.

3 1. The state public defender shall establish, promote, and
4 administer a case navigator pilot program for the purposes
5 of assisting parents involved in child in need of assistance
6 cases. Financial assistance under the program shall be
7 provided from moneys appropriated to the case navigator
8 program.

9 2. The case navigators shall provide monthly services to
10 fifty parents involved in child in need of assistance cases.

11 3. The case navigators shall work with parents to educate
12 them with regard to case procedures, terms, court room location
13 and procedures, expectations of attorneys, the department of
14 human services, and the court, and their own expectations.
15 The case navigators shall assist parents in accessing online
16 case management programs. The case navigators shall develop
17 strategies to assist the parents when the child in need of
18 assistance case is closed and the case navigators pilot program
19 services end.

20 4. *a.* The state public defender shall conduct a
21 comprehensive review of the case navigator pilot program
22 and shall, by December 31, 2019, submit a report of the
23 review, and any recommendations and cost projections of such
24 recommendations to the governor and the general assembly.

25 *b.* If the report deems the case navigator pilot program
26 successful, the state public defender shall seek appropriated
27 moneys to expand the program statewide.

28 *c.* If the report deems the case navigator pilot program
29 unsuccessful, the case navigator pilot program shall not accept
30 any additional parents as clients and the program shall expend
31 resources to provide services to parents already in the program
32 through the end of their case involvement, if possible.

33 Sec. 2. CASE NAVIGATOR PILOT PROGRAM APPROPRIATIONS. There
34 is appropriated from the general fund of the state to the
35 office of the state public defender of the department of

1 inspections and appeals for the following fiscal years, the
2 following amounts, or so much thereof as is necessary, to be
3 used for the purposes designated:

4 For the case navigator pilot program:

- 5 1. FY 2018-2019:
- 6 \$ 150,000
- 7 2. FY 2019-2020:
- 8 \$ 150,000

9 Of the moneys appropriated for each fiscal year, up to \$250
10 each month may be used for each client and the case navigator
11 pilot program may accept no more than 50 cases each year for
12 the two-year program. Of the moneys appropriated, moneys may
13 be expended for interpreters where necessary.

14 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE UPON ENACTMENT. This Act, being deemed of
15 immediate importance, takes effect upon enactment.

16 EXPLANATION

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

19 This bill establishes a case navigator pilot program for
20 child in need of assistance cases and makes appropriations.
21 The bill directs the state public defender to establish and
22 administer the case navigator pilot program to provide services
23 to parents involved in child in need of assistance cases.

24 The bill requires the state public defender to report
25 by December 31, 2019, to the governor and the general
26 assembly. If the report finds the case navigator pilot program
27 successful, the bill directs the state public defender's office
28 to seek appropriations to expand the program statewide. If the
29 report finds the case navigator pilot program unsuccessful,
30 the bill directs the state public defender to expend moneys to
31 ongoing cases and not to accept new cases.

32 The bill appropriates \$150,000 from the general fund of the
33 state to the state public defender's office in fiscal years
34 2018-2019 and 2019-2020. The pilot program may provide up to
35 \$250 a month, per client, for a total of no more than 50 clients

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1 in the case navigator pilot program each year.