

House File 2334 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2334

BY THORUP

A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing a task force relating to the reunification
2 of an unaccompanied child with the child's parent, guardian,
3 or custodian following a natural disaster.

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

1 Section 1. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY
2 MANAGEMENT — CHILD REUNIFICATION FOLLOWING A NATURAL DISASTER
3 — TASK FORCE.

4 1. The department of homeland security and emergency
5 management shall convene a task force to study the current
6 status of unaccompanied children following a natural disaster,
7 who are not under the supervision of a school or the department
8 of human services, to ascertain gaps, assess capacity concerns,
9 identify resources, and examine issues including specifically
10 the dangers that a child separated from a parent, guardian, or
11 custodian may face including victimization, abuse, kidnapping,
12 or exploitation and reunification efforts that need to
13 be addressed by all agencies and organizations across the
14 response community. The task force shall develop specific
15 policy recommendations relating to the reunification of an
16 unaccompanied child with the child's parent, guardian, or
17 custodian following a natural disaster.

18 2. The task force members shall include but are not
19 limited to the department of public safety, the Iowa emergency
20 management directors association, the Iowa state sheriffs and
21 deputies association, a police officers association, a fire
22 fighters association, and other agencies as deemed appropriate.
23 The task force shall also include four legislators as ex
24 officio, nonvoting members. The four legislators shall be
25 appointed one each by the majority leader of the senate,
26 the minority leader of the senate, the speaker of the house
27 of representatives, and the minority leader of the house of
28 representatives for terms as provided in section 69.16B.

29 3. The task force shall meet by October 2, 2020, and shall
30 submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the
31 general assembly for consideration by January 2, 2021.

32 EXPLANATION

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

35 This bill establishes a task force relating to the

1 reunification of an unaccompanied child with the child's
2 parent, guardian, or custodian following a natural disaster.

3 The bill requires the department of homeland security and
4 emergency management to convene a task force to study the
5 current status of unaccompanied children following a natural
6 disaster, who are not under the supervision of a school or
7 the department of human services, to ascertain gaps, assess
8 capacity concerns, identify resources, examine issues including
9 specific issues relating to dangers a child may face and
10 reunification efforts by all agencies and organizations across
11 the response community, and develop policy recommendations
12 relating to the reunification of an unaccompanied child with
13 the child's parent, guardian, or custodian following a natural
14 disaster.

15 The bill provides that task force members shall include
16 but are not limited to the department of public safety, the
17 Iowa emergency management directors association, the Iowa
18 state sheriffs and deputies association, a police officers
19 association, a fire fighters association, and other agencies
20 as deemed appropriate. The task force shall also include four
21 legislators as ex officio, nonvoting members. The task force
22 shall meet by October 2, 2020, and shall submit a report of
23 its findings and recommendations to the general assembly for
24 consideration by January 2, 2021.