

House File 2530 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2530

BY COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 2334)

A BILL FOR

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

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

1 Section 1. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY
2 MANAGEMENT — CHILD OR DEPENDENT ADULT REUNIFICATION FOLLOWING
3 A NATURAL DISASTER — 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 and dependent adults following
7 a natural disaster, who are not under the supervision of a
8 school or the department of human services, to ascertain
9 gaps, assess capacity concerns, identify resources, and
10 examine issues including specifically the dangers that a child
11 or dependent adult separated from a parent, guardian, or
12 custodian may face including victimization, abuse, kidnapping,
13 or exploitation, and reunification efforts that need to
14 be addressed by all agencies and organizations across the
15 response community. The task force shall develop specific
16 policy recommendations relating to the reunification of an
17 unaccompanied child or dependent adult with the child's or
18 dependent adult's parent, guardian, or custodian following a
19 natural disaster.

20 2. The task force members shall include but are not limited
21 to representatives from the department of public safety, the
22 Iowa emergency management directors association, the Iowa
23 state sheriffs and deputies association, a police officers
24 association, a fire fighters association, and other agencies as
25 deemed appropriate. The task force members shall also include
26 four legislators as ex officio, nonvoting members. The four
27 legislators shall be appointed one each by the majority leader
28 of the senate, the minority leader of the senate, the speaker
29 of the house of representatives, and the minority leader of
30 the house of representatives for terms as provided in section
31 69.16B.

32 3. The task force shall convene by October 2, 2020, and
33 shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations
34 to the general assembly for consideration during the 2021
35 legislative session.

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EXPLANATION

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

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This bill establishes a task force relating to the
reunification of an unaccompanied child or dependent adult with
the child's or dependent adult's parent, guardian, or custodian
following a natural disaster.

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

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

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