

House File 659 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 659
BY COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 395)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to pretrial contact between a prosecuting
2 witness who is a minor and the defendant.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 915.36A Minor prosecuting witness
2 — pretrial contact.

3 A prosecuting witness who is a minor shall have the right to
4 have the interview or deposition taken outside of the presence
5 of the defendant. The interview or deposition may be televised
6 by closed-circuit equipment to a room where the defendant can
7 view the interview or deposition or in a manner that ensures
8 that the defendant shall not have contact with the minor. The
9 defendant shall be allowed to communicate with the defendant's
10 counsel in the room where the minor is being interviewed or
11 deposed by an appropriate electronic method.

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 relates to pretrial contact between a prosecuting
16 witness who is a minor and the defendant.

17 The bill provides that a prosecuting witness who is a minor
18 shall have the right to have a pretrial interview or deposition
19 taken outside of the presence of the defendant. The interview
20 or deposition may be televised by closed-circuit equipment or
21 in some other manner to a room where the defendant can view
22 the interview or deposition, but which ensures there is no
23 contact with the minor. The defendant shall be allowed to
24 communicate with the defendant's attorney during the interview
25 or deposition through an appropriate electronic method.