

Senate Study Bill 3165 - Introduced

SENATE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON
HUMAN RESOURCES BILL BY
CHAIRPERSON SWEENEY)

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

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

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.

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 the dangers a child or dependent adult may face and reunification efforts by all agencies and organizations across the response community. The task force shall develop specific 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.

The bill provides that task force members shall include but are not limited to representatives from 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 members shall also include four legislators as ex officio, nonvoting members. The task force shall convene by October 2, 2020, and shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the general assembly for consideration during the 2021 legislative interim.