

**House File 2154 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 2154  
BY BARKER

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to the placement of siblings when custody of the  
2 siblings has been transferred to the department of health and  
3 human services or an agency for placement.  
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. Section 232.108, Code 2026, is amended by adding  
2 the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 8. Notwithstanding any provision of law to  
4 the contrary, this section shall not apply, and the department  
5 shall not be required to place a child with a sibling, if all of  
6 the following apply:

7 a. The child's custody, or the sibling's custody, was  
8 previously transferred to the department and the department  
9 placed the child or the sibling.

10 b. The department determined that the child and the sibling  
11 have little or no established relationship.

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 the placement of siblings together when  
16 custody of the siblings has been transferred to the department  
17 of health and human services (HHS) or an agency for placement  
18 (placing agency).

19 Under current law, HHS or a placing agency must make  
20 reasonable efforts to place siblings together whenever possible  
21 if such placement is in the best interests of each child.  
22 The bill makes the requirement to place siblings together  
23 inapplicable, and removes HHS's requirement to place siblings  
24 together, when a child's custody, or the child's sibling's  
25 custody, was previously transferred to HHS, HHS placed the child  
26 or the sibling, and HHS determined that the child and the sibling  
27 have little or no established relationship.