

**House File 2557 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 2557  
BY COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 669)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act allowing a person to raise, guide, and instruct a child in  
2 a manner consistent with the child's sex.

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

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1 Section 1. Section 232.68, subsection 2, paragraph b, Code  
2 2026, is amended to read as follows:

3 b. "*Child abuse*" or "*abuse*" shall does not be ~~construed to~~  
4 ~~hold a~~ include any of the following:

5 (1) A victim responsible for failing to prevent a crime  
6 against the victim.

7 (2) Raising, guiding, or instructing a child in a manner  
8 consistent with the child's sex, including but not limited to all  
9 of the following:

10 (a) Referring to the child by titles or pronouns consistent  
11 with the child's sex.

12 (b) Seeking and consenting to a mental health service for a  
13 child for the purpose of helping the child live a life consistent  
14 with the child's sex.

15 (c) Making mental health or medical decisions based on the  
16 child's sex.

17 (d) Declining to consent to gender transition  
18 procedure-related activity, as described in section 147.164, for  
19 a child.

20 Sec. 2. Section 232.71B, subsection 7, Code 2026, is amended  
21 to read as follows:

22 7. *Facility or school visit.*

23 a. The assessment may include a visit to a facility providing  
24 care to the child named in the report or to any public or private  
25 school subject to the authority of the department of education  
26 where the child named in the report is located.

27 b. The administrator of a facility, ~~or~~ a public school, or a  
28 private school shall cooperate with ~~the~~ a child protection worker  
29 by providing confidential access to the child named in ~~the~~ a  
30 child abuse report for the purpose of interviewing the child, and  
31 shall allow the child protection worker confidential access to  
32 other children for the purpose of conducting interviews in order  
33 to obtain relevant information.

34 c. The child protection worker may observe a child named in  
35 a report in accordance with the provisions of section 232.68,

1 ~~subsection 3, paragraph "b"~~. A witness shall be present during  
2 an observation of a child. Any

3 d. A child aged ten years of age or older can terminate  
4 contact with the child protection worker by stating or indicating  
5 the child's wish to discontinue the contact.

6 e. The immunity granted by section 232.73 applies to acts or  
7 omissions in good faith of administrators and their facilities  
8 or school districts for cooperating in an assessment and allowing  
9 confidential access to a child.

10 Sec. 3. Section 237.5, Code 2026, is amended by adding the  
11 following new subsection:

12 NEW SUBSECTION. 4. The department shall not refuse to issue  
13 an individual or an agency a license based, in whole or in  
14 part, on the individual's or agency's intent to raise, guide, or  
15 instruct a child in a manner consistent with the child's sex,  
16 including but not limited to all of the following:

17 a. Referring to the child by titles or pronouns consistent  
18 with the child's sex.

19 b. Seeking and consenting to a mental health service for a  
20 child for the purpose of helping the child live a life consistent  
21 with the child's sex.

22 c. Making mental health or medical decisions based on the  
23 child's sex.

24 d. Declining to consent to gender transition  
25 procedure-related activity, as described in section 147.164, for  
26 a child.

27 Sec. 4. Section 598.41, Code 2026, is amended by adding the  
28 following new subsection:

29 NEW SUBSECTION. 3A. In considering what custody arrangement  
30 under subsection 2 is in the best interests of the minor child,  
31 the court shall not consider as a negative factor that a parent  
32 is raising, guiding, or instructing, or intends to raise, guide,  
33 or instruct, the child in a manner consistent with the child's  
34 sex, including but not limited to all of the following:

35 a. Referring to the child by titles or pronouns consistent

1 with the child's sex.

2     b. Seeking and consenting to a mental health service for a  
3 child for the purpose of helping the child live a life consistent  
4 with the child's sex.

5     c. Making mental health or medical decisions based on the  
6 child's sex.

7     d. Declining to consent to gender transition  
8 procedure-related activity, as described in section 147.164, for  
9 a child.

10     Sec. 5. Section 600.7A, Code 2026, is amended to read as  
11 follows:

12     **600.7A ~~Adoption services provided by or through the~~**  
13 **~~department~~ Rules — selection of adoptive parent criteria.**

14     1. The department shall adopt rules which provide that if  
15 adoption services are provided by or through the department,  
16 notwithstanding any other selection of adoptive parent criteria,  
17 the overriding criterion shall be a preference for placing a  
18 child in a stable home environment as expeditiously as possible.

19     2. The department shall not adopt rules that will preclude  
20 an individual from consideration as an adoptive parent based, in  
21 whole or in part, on the individual's intent to raise, guide,  
22 or instruct a child in a manner consistent with the child's sex,  
23 including but not limited to all of the following:

24     a. Referring to the child by titles or pronouns consistent  
25 with the child's sex.

26     b. Seeking and consenting to a mental health service for a  
27 child for the purpose of helping the child live a life consistent  
28 with the child's sex.

29     c. Making mental health or medical decisions based on the  
30 child's sex.

31     d. Declining to consent to gender transition  
32 procedure-related activity, as described in section 147.164, for  
33 a child.

34     Sec. 6. Section 726.6, Code 2026, is amended by adding the  
35 following new subsection:

1 NEW SUBSECTION. 1A. "Child endangerment", as described in  
2 subsection 1, does not include a person raising, guiding, or  
3 instructing a child or a minor in a manner consistent with the  
4 child's or minor's sex, including but not limited to all of the  
5 following:

6 a. Referring to the child by titles or pronouns consistent  
7 with the child's sex.

8 b. Seeking and consenting to a mental health service for a  
9 child for the purpose of helping the child live a life consistent  
10 with the child's sex.

11 c. Making mental health or medical decisions based on the  
12 child's sex.

13 d. Declining to consent to gender transition  
14 procedure-related activity, as described in section 147.164, for  
15 a child.

16 EXPLANATION

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

19 This bill allows a person to raise, guide, and instruct a  
20 child in a manner consistent with the child's sex.

21 The bill exempts from the definition of child abuse a  
22 person raising, guiding, or instructing a child in a manner  
23 consistent with the child's sex, including but not limited to  
24 referring to the child by titles or pronouns consistent with  
25 the child's sex; seeking and consenting to a mental health  
26 service for a child for the purpose of helping the child live  
27 a life consistent with the child's sex; making mental health  
28 or medical decisions based on the child's sex; and declining  
29 to consent to gender transition procedure-related activity for  
30 a child. The bill adds similar language to foster parent  
31 licensing considerations, court-ordered custody considerations  
32 during a dissolution of marriage, prospective adoptive parent  
33 considerations, and exemptions to the definition of child  
34 endangerment.

35 The bill makes a conforming change to Code section 232.71B

1 (duties of the department upon receipt of [child abuse] report).

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