

House File 449 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 449

BY A. MEYER

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to screening children for commercial sexual
2 exploitation in certain circumstances.

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

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1 Section 1. Section 232.2, Code 2025, is amended by adding the
2 following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 7A. "Commercial sexual exploitation" means
4 causing a child, by force, fraud, or coercion, to engage in sex
5 or sexually explicit activities for money, goods, services, or
6 the promise of money, goods, or services.

7 Sec. 2. Section 232.28, subsection 2, Code 2025, is amended
8 to read as follows:

9 2. The Upon receiving a complaint under subsection 1, the
10 court or its designee shall refer do all of the following:

11 a. Refer the complaint to an intake officer who shall consult
12 with law enforcement authorities having knowledge of the facts
13 and conduct a preliminary inquiry to determine what action should
14 be taken.

15 b. Order the child subject to the complaint to be screened
16 for commercial sexual exploitation.

17 Sec. 3. Section 232.71B, subsection 1, paragraph a,
18 unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 2025, is amended to read as follows:

19 If the department determines a report constitutes a child
20 abuse allegation, the department shall promptly have the child
21 subject to the child abuse allegation screened for commercial
22 sexual exploitation, and shall commence either a child abuse
23 assessment within twenty-four hours of receiving the report or
24 a family assessment within seventy-two hours of receiving the
25 report.

26 EXPLANATION

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

29 This bill relates to screening children for commercial sexual
30 exploitation (exploitation) in certain circumstances.

31 The bill defines "commercial sexual exploitation" as causing a
32 child, by force, fraud, or coercion, to engage in sex or sexually
33 explicit activities for money, goods, services, or the promise of
34 money, goods, or services.

35 The bill requires the juvenile court or the court's designee

1 to order a child screened for exploitation when the court
2 receives a complaint alleging that the child committed a
3 delinquent act.

4 The bill requires the department of health and human services
5 (HHS) to screen a child for exploitation if HHS determines a
6 report it receives alleging child abuse constitutes a child abuse
7 allegation.

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