

**House File 602 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 602  
BY COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 38)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to testimony by a minor witness using two-way,  
2 closed-circuit equipment.

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

unofficial

1 Section 1. Section 915.38, subsection 1, paragraph a, Code  
2 2025, is amended to read as follows:

3 a. Upon its own motion or upon motion of any party, a court  
4 may protect a minor, as defined in section 599.1, from trauma  
5 caused by testifying in the physical presence of the defendant  
6 where it would impair the minor's ability to communicate, by  
7 ordering that the testimony of the minor be taken in a room other  
8 than the ~~courtroom and be courtroom~~. The testimony shall be  
9 televised by two-way, closed-circuit equipment with both audio  
10 and video feeds for listening and viewing in the courtroom.  
11 However, such an order shall be entered only upon a specific  
12 finding by the court that such measures are necessary to protect  
13 the minor from trauma. Only the judge, prosecuting attorney,  
14 defendant's attorney, persons necessary to operate the equipment,  
15 and any person whose presence, in the opinion of the court, would  
16 contribute to the welfare and well-being of the minor may be  
17 present in the room with the minor during the minor's testimony.  
18 The judge shall inform the minor that the defendant will not be  
19 present in the room in which the minor will be testifying but  
20 that the defendant will be viewing the minor's testimony through  
21 closed-circuit television.

22 EXPLANATION

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

25 This bill relates to testimony by a minor witness using  
26 two-way, closed-circuit equipment.

27 The bill provides that a court may protect a minor from trauma  
28 caused by testifying in the physical presence of a defendant  
29 where it would impair the minor's ability to communicate, by  
30 ordering that the testimony of the minor be taken in a room  
31 other than the courtroom. The testimony will be televised by  
32 two-way, closed-circuit equipment with both audio and video feeds  
33 for listening and viewing in the courtroom.

34 Current law does not specify that the closed-circuit equipment  
35 have two-way capabilities.