

House File 801 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 801
BY COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN
SERVICES

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 449)

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 to engage in sex or sexually explicit activities
5 for money, goods, services, or the promise of money, goods, or
6 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 using a standardized, evidence-based, trauma-informed screening
17 tool, for commercial sexual exploitation.

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

20 If the department determines a report constitutes a child
21 abuse allegation, the department shall promptly have the child
22 subject to the child abuse allegation screened, using a
23 standardized, evidence-based, trauma-informed screening tool, for
24 commercial sexual exploitation, and shall commence either a child
25 abuse assessment within twenty-four hours of receiving the report
26 or a family assessment within seventy-two hours of receiving the
27 report.

28 **EXPLANATION**

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

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

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

1 The bill requires the juvenile court or the court's designee
2 to order a child screened, using a standardized, evidence-based,
3 trauma-informed screening tool, for exploitation when the court
4 receives a complaint alleging that the child committed a
5 delinquent act.

6 The bill requires the department of health and human
7 services (HHS) to screen a child, using a standardized,
8 evidence-based, trauma-informed screening tool, for exploitation
9 if HHS determines a report it receives alleging child abuse
10 constitutes a child abuse allegation.

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