

**Senate File 251 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 251  
BY SALMON

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to the appointment of an ombudsman assistant for  
2 investigating complaints related to child foster care.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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1 Section 1. Section 2C.6, Code 2025, is amended to read as  
2 follows:

3 **2C.6 Deputy — ~~assistant for penal agencies~~ assistants.**

4 1. The ombudsman shall designate one of the members of the  
5 staff as the deputy ombudsman, with authority to act as ombudsman  
6 when the ombudsman is absent from the state or becomes disabled.  
7 The ombudsman may delegate to members of the staff any of the  
8 authority or duties of the office except the duty of formally  
9 making recommendations to agencies or reports to the governor or  
10 the general assembly.

11 2. The ombudsman shall appoint an assistant who shall be  
12 primarily responsible for investigating complaints relating to  
13 penal or correctional agencies.

14 3. The ombudsman shall appoint an assistant who shall be  
15 primarily responsible for investigating complaints relating to  
16 child foster care under chapter 237. The assistant shall have  
17 a minimum of ten years of experience as a foster parent, with at  
18 least five of the ten years as a foster parent while residing in  
19 Iowa.

20 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. **2C.12A Direct communication — child**  
21 **foster care.**

22 The ombudsman shall maintain a process to allow an individual  
23 licensee under chapter 237 to directly communicate and file  
24 a complaint with the ombudsman assistant under section 2C.6,  
25 subsection 3.

26 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. **237.14B Ombudsman information.**

27 All materials relating to child foster care that are  
28 made available by the department to the public shall contain  
29 information about the ombudsman assistant described in section  
30 2C.6, subsection 3. The information shall provide a description  
31 of the ombudsman assistant's duties and the process for  
32 contacting the ombudsman assistant.

33 **EXPLANATION**

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

1 This bill relates to the appointment of an ombudsman assistant  
2 who is primarily responsible for investigating complaints  
3 relating to child foster care. The assistant must have a minimum  
4 of 10 years of experience as a foster parent, with at least  
5 5 of the 10 years as a foster parent while residing in Iowa.  
6 The bill requires the ombudsman to maintain a process to allow  
7 an individual licensee under Code chapter 237 (child foster  
8 care facilities) to directly communicate and file a complaint.  
9 The bill requires the department of health and human services  
10 to provide a description of the ombudsman assistant's duties,  
11 and ways to contact the ombudsman assistant, in all materials  
12 relating to child foster care made available to the public.

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