SENATE FILE BY COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES

(SUCCESSOR TO SF 312)

Passed	Senate,	Date	Passed	House,	Date	
Vote:	Ayes	Nays	Vote:	Ayes	Nays	s
	Αı	proved				

## A BILL FOR

1 An Act implementing the federal Indian Child Welfare Act. 2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA: 3 TLSB 1964SV 80 4 jp/cf/24

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Section 1. <u>NEW SECTION</u>. 232.7 IOWA INDIAN CHILD WELFARE 2 ACT. 1

If a proceeding held under this chapter involves an 1. 4 Indian child as defined in section 232B.3 and the proceeding 5 is subject to the Iowa Indian child welfare Act under chapter 6 232B, the proceeding and other actions taken in connection with the proceeding or this chapter shall comply with chapter 8 232B.

2. In any proceeding held or action taken under this 10 chapter involving an Indian child, the applicable requirements 11 of the federal Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1999, Pub. L. 1 12 No. 105=89, shall be applied to the proceeding or action in a 1 13 manner that complies with chapter 232B and the federal Indian 1 14 Child Welfare Act, Pub. L. No. 95=608. 1 15 Sec. 2. <u>NEW SECTION</u>. 232B.1 SHORT TITLE.

This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Iowa

17 Indian Child Welfare Act".
18 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. 232B.2 PURPOSE == POLICY OF STATE. The purpose of the Iowa Indian child welfare Act is to 1 20 clarify state policies and procedures regarding implementation 21 of the federal Indian Child Welfare Act, Pub. L. No. 95=608, 22 as codified in 25 U.S.C. chapter 21. It is the policy of the 1 23 state to cooperate fully with Indian tribes and tribal 24 citizens in Iowa in order to ensure that the intent and 25 provisions of the federal Indian Child Welfare Act are 1 26 enforced. This cooperation includes recognition by the state 27 that Indian tribes have a continuing and compelling 28 governmental interest in an Indian child whether or not the 29 child is in the physical or legal custody of an Indian parent, 30 Indian custodian, or an Indian extended family member at the 31 commencement of a child custody proceeding or the child has 32 resided or domiciled on an Indian reservation. The state is 33 committed to protecting the essential tribal relations and 34 best interest of an Indian child by promoting practices, in 35 accordance with the federal Indian Child Welfare Act and other 1 applicable law, designed to prevent the child's voluntary or 2 involuntary out=of=home placement and, whenever such placement 3 is necessary or ordered, by placing the child, whenever 4 possible, in a foster home, adoptive home, or other type of 5 custodial placement that reflects the unique values of the 6 child's tribal culture and is best able to assist the child in 7 establishing, developing, and maintaining a political,

9 tribal community. Sec. 4. <u>NEW SECTION</u>. 232B.3 DEFINITIONS.

For the purposes of this chapter unless the context

8 cultural, and social relationship with the child's tribe and

2 11 2 12 otherwise requires:

2 13 1. "Adoptive placement" means the permanent placement of 2 14 an Indian child for adoption including, but not limited to, 2 15 any action under chapter 232, 600, or 600A resulting in a 16 final decree of adoption. "Adoptive placement" does not 2 17 include a placement based upon an act by an Indian child 2 18 which, if committed by an adult, would be deemed a crime, or 19 upon an award, in a divorce proceeding, of custody to one of 20 the child's parents.

2. "Best interest of the child" means the use of practices 2.1 2 22 in accordance with the federal Indian Child Welfare Act, this

2 23 chapter, and other applicable law, that are designed to

2 24 prevent the Indian child's voluntary or involuntary out=of= 2 25 home placement, and whenever such placement is necessary or 2 26 ordered, placing the child, to the greatest extent possible, 2 27 in a foster home, adoptive placement, or other type of 2 28 custodial placement that reflects the unique values of the 29 child's tribal culture and is best able to assist the child in 30 establishing, developing, and maintaining a political, 31 cultural, and social relationship with the Indian child's 32 tribe and tribal community.

"Child custody proceeding" means a voluntary or 33 3. 34 involuntary proceeding that may result in an Indian child's 35 adoptive placement, foster care placement, preadoptive 1 placement, or termination of parental rights.

"Foster care placement" means the temporary placement 4. of an Indian child in an individual or agency foster care 4 placement or in the personal custody of a guardian or 5 conservator prior to the termination of parental rights, from 6 which the child cannot be returned upon demand to the custody 7 of the parent or Indian custodian but there has not been a 8 termination of parental rights. "Foster care placement" does not include a placement based upon an act by an Indian child 10 which, if committed by an adult, would be deemed a crime, or 11 upon an award, in a divorce proceeding, of custody to one of 12 the child's parents.

"Indian" means a person who is a member of an Indian 3 14 tribe, or is eligible for membership in an Indian tribe, or 3 15 who is an Alaska native and a member of a regional corporation
3 16 as defined in 43 U.S.C. } 1606.
3 17 6. "Indian child" or "child" means an unmarried Indian

3 18 person who is under eighteen years of age or a child who is 19 under eighteen years of age that an Indian tribe identifies as 20 a child of the tribe's community.

"Indian child's family" or "extended family member" 22 means an adult person who is an Indian child's family member 23 or extended family member under the law or custom of the 3 24 Indian child's tribe or, in absence of such law or custom, an 25 adult person who has any of the following relationships with 26 the Indian child:

a. Parent.

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C. Grandparent.

d. Aunt or uncle.

e. Cousin.

f. Clan member.

Band member g.

h. Brother=in=law.

i. Sister=in=law.

j. Niece.

k. Nephew.

1. Stepparent.

8. "Indian child's tribe" means a tribe in which an Indian 5 child is a member or eligible for membership.

9. "Indian custodian" means an Indian person who under tribal law, tribal custom, or state law, has legal or temporary physical custody of an Indian child.

10. "Indian organization" means any of the following

4 10 entities that is owned or controlled by Indians, or a majority 4 11 of the members are Indians:

a. A group.

b. An association.

c. A partnership.

d. A corporation.

e.

Other legal entity.
"Indian tribe" or "tribe" means an Indian tribe, band, 4 16 11. 4 18 nation, or other organized Indian group, or a community of 4 19 Indians, including any Alaska native village as defined in 43 4 20 U.S.C. } 1602(c) recognized as eligible for services provided 21 to Indians by the United States secretary of the interior 22 because of the community members' status as Indians.

"Parent" means a biological parent of an Indian child 24 or a person who has lawfully adopted an Indian child, 25 including adoptions made under tribal law or custom. "Parent 26 does not include an unwed father whose paternity has not been 27 acknowledged or established. Except for purposes of the 28 federal Indian Child Welfare Act as codified in 25 U.S.C. 29 1913(b), (c), and (d), 1916, 1917, and 1951, "parent" doe does not 30 include a person whose parental rights to that child have been 31 terminated.

"Preadoptive placement" means the temporary placement 4 33 of an Indian child in an individual or agency foster care 4 34 placement after the termination of parental rights, but prior 35 to or in lieu of an adoptive placement. 1 placement does not include a placement based upon an act by 2 an Indian child which, if committed by an adult, would be 3 deemed a crime, or upon an award, in a divorce proceeding, of 4 custody to one of the child's parents.

14. "Reservation" means Indian country as defined in 18 U.S.C. } 1151 or land that is not covered under that definition but the title to which is either held by the United 6 U.S.C. 8 States in trust for the benefit of an Indian tribe or Indian 9 person or held by an Indian tribe or Indian person subject to 10 a restriction by the United States against alienation.

"Secretary of the interior" means the secretary of the 15. 12 United States department of the interior.

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16. "Termination of parental rights" means any action 14 resulting in the termination of the parent=child relationship.
15 "Termination of parental rights" does not include a placement 16 based upon an act by an Indian child which, if committed by an 5 17 adult, would be deemed a crime, or upon an award, in a divorce 5 18 proceeding, of custody to one of the child's parents. 5 19 17. "Tribal court" means a court or body vested by an

20 Indian tribe with jurisdiction over child custody proceedings, 21 including but not limited to a federal court of Indian 22 offenses, a court established and operated under the code or 23 custom of an Indian tribe, or an administrative body of an 24 Indian tribe vested with authority over child custody 25 proceedings.

26 Sec. 5. <u>NEW SECTION</u>. 232B.4 APPLICATION 27 EXEMPTIONS == DETERMINATION OF INDIAN STATUS. APPLICATION OF CHAPTER ==

This chapter applies to child custody proceedings 1. 29 involving an Indian child whether the child is in the physical 30 or legal custody of an Indian parent, Indian custodian, or an 31 Indian extended family member or another person at the 32 commencement of the proceedings or whether the child has 33 resided or domiciled on or off an Indian reservation.

The court shall require a party seeking the foster care 35 placement of, termination of parental rights over, or the adoption of, an Indian child to seek to determine whether the child is an Indian child through contact with any Indian tribe 3 in which the child may be a member or eligible for membership, 4 the child's parent, any person who has custody of the child or 5 with whom the child resides, and any other person that reasonably can be expected to have information regarding the child's possible membership or eligibility for membership in 8 an Indian tribe, including but not limited to the United 9 States department of the interior.

3. A written determination by an Indian tribe that a child 11 is a member of or eligible for membership in that tribe, or 12 testimony attesting to such status by a person authorized by 6 13 the tribe to provide that determination, shall be conclusive. 14 A written determination by an Indian tribe, or testimony by a 15 person authorized by the tribe to provide that determination 16 or testimony, that a child is not a member of or eligible for 6 17 membership in that tribe shall be conclusive as to that tribe. 6 18 If an Indian tribe does not provide evidence of the child's 19 status as an Indian child, the court shall determine the 6 20 child's status.

The determination of the Indian status of a child shall 4. 22 be made as soon as practicable in order to serve the best 23 interest of the child and to ensure compliance with the notice 24 requirements of this chapter

232B.5 Sec. 6. <u>NEW SECTION</u>. 2.5 INDIAN CHILD CUSTODY 26 PROCEEDINGS == JURISDICTION == NOTICE == TRANSFER OF 27 PROCEEDINGS. 28

1. An Indian tribe has jurisdiction exclusive as to this 29 state over any child custody proceeding held in this state 30 involving an Indian child who resides or is domiciled within 31 the reservation of that tribe, except when the jurisdiction is 32 otherwise vested in this state by existing federal law. 33 Indian child is a ward of a tribal court, the Indian tribe 34 shall retain exclusive jurisdiction, notwithstanding the 35 residence or domicile of the child.

The federal Indian Child Welfare Act and this chapter 2 are applicable without exception in any child custody proceeding involving an Indian child. A state court does not have discretion to determine the applicability of the federal Indian Child Welfare Act or this chapter to a child custody proceeding based upon whether an Indian child is part of an existing Indian family.

In a child custody proceeding, the court or any party to the proceeding shall be deemed to know or have reason to 7 10 know that an Indian child is involved whenever any of the

7 11 following circumstances exist:

a. A party to the proceeding or the court has been 7 13 informed by any interested person, an officer of the court, a 7 14 tribe, an Indian organization, a public or private agency, or 7 15 a member of the child's extended family that the child is or 7 16 may be an Indian child.

7 17 b. The child who is the subject of the proceeding gives 7 18 the court reason to believe the child is an Indian child.

- c. The court or a party to the proceeding has reason to 7 20 believe the residence or domicile of the child is in a
- 7 21 predominantly Indian community.
  7 22 4. In any involuntary child custody proceeding, including 23 review hearings following an adjudication, the court shall 24 establish in the record that the party seeking the foster care 25 placement of, or termination of parental rights over, or the 26 adoption of an Indian child has sent notice by registered 27 mail, return receipt requested, to all of the following:

  - a. The child's parents.b. The child's Indian custodians.
  - c. Any tribe in which the child may be a member or

31 eligible for membership.

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- 5. If the identity or location of the child's parent 33 Indian custodian, or tribe cannot be determined, the notice 34 under subsection 4 shall be provided to the secretary of the 35 interior, who shall have fifteen days after receipt of the 1 notice to provide the notice to the child's parent, Indian 2 custodian, and tribe. A foster care placement or termination 3 of parental rights proceeding involving the child shall not be 4 held until at least ten days after receipt of notice by the 5 child's parent, Indian custodian, and tribe, or the secretary 6 of the interior. Upon request, the child's parent or Indian 7 custodian or tribe shall be granted up to twenty additional 8 days after receipt of the notice to prepare for the 9 proceeding.
- 6. The court shall also establish in the record that a 11 notice of any involuntary custody proceeding has been sent to 12 the Indian child's tribe. The tribe may provide notice of the
- 13 proceeding to any of the child's extended family members.
  14 7. The notice in any involuntary child custody proceeding 8 15 involving an Indian child shall be written in clear and 8 16 understandable language and shall include all of the following 17 information:
  - a. The name and tribal affiliation of the Indian child.
  - h. A copy of the petition by which the proceeding was 20 initiated.
- c. A statement listing the rights of the child's parents, 8 22 Indian custodians, and tribes and, if applicable, the rights 23 of the Indian child's family. The rights shall include all of 24 the following:

  - 25 (1) The right to intervene in the proceeding. 26 (2) The right to petition the court to transfer the 27 proceeding to the tribal court of the Indian child's tribe.
  - (3) The right to be granted up to an additional twenty 29 days from the receipt of the notice to prepare for the 30 proceeding.
  - (4) The right to request that the court grant further 32 extensions of time.
  - (5) In the case of an extended family member, the right to 34 intervene and be considered as a preferred placement for the
  - A statement of the potential legal consequences of an d. 2 adjudication on the future custodial rights of the child's 3 parents or Indian custodians.
  - e. A statement that if the parents or Indian custodians 5 are unable to afford counsel in an involuntary proceeding, 6 counsel will be appointed to represent the parents or
  - f. A statement that the court may appoint counsel for the child upon a finding that the appointment is in the best 10 interest of the child.
  - g. A statement that the information contained in the 12 notice, petition, pleading, and other court documents is 13 confidential.
  - h. A statement that the child's tribe may provide notice 15 of the proceeding to any of the child's extended family 16 members along with copies of other related documents.
- In a voluntary child custody proceeding involving an 18 Indian child, including but not limited to a review hearing 19 the court shall establish in the record that the party seeking 20 the foster care placement of, termination of parental rights 9 21 to, or the permanent placement of, an Indian child has sent

9 22 notice at least ten days prior to the hearing by registered 9 23 mail, return receipt requested, to all of the following:

- a. The child's parents, except for a parent whose parental 9 25 rights have been terminated.
- b. The child's Indian custodians, except for a custodian 9 26 9 27 whose parental or Indian custodian rights have been 9 28 terminated.
- 9 29 c. Any tribe in which the child may be a member or 30 eligible for membership.
- 31 9. The notice in a voluntary child custody proceeding 32 involving an Indian child shall be written in clear and 9 31 33 understandable language and shall include all of the following 9 34 information:

  - a. The name and tribal affiliation of the child.
    b. A copy of the petition by which it A copy of the petition by which the proceeding was initiated.
  - c. A statement listing the rights of the child's parents, Indian custodians, Indian tribe or tribes, and, if applicable, extended family members. The rights shall include all of the following:
    - The right to intervene in the proceeding. (1)
- The right to petition the court to transfer a foster (2) care placement or termination of parental rights proceeding to 10 10 the tribal court of the Indian child's tribe.
- (3) In the case of extended family members, the right to 10 12 intervene and be considered as a preferred placement for the 10 13 child.
- d. A statement that the information contained in the 10 15 notice, petition, pleading, and any other court document shall 10 16 be kept confidential.
- 10 17 e. A statement that the child's tribe may provide notice 10 18 of the proceeding to any of the child's extended family 10 19 members along with copies of other related documents.
- 10 20 10. Unless either of an Indian child's parents objects, in 10 21 any child custody proceeding involving an Indian child who is 10 22 not domiciled or residing within the jurisdiction of the 10 23 Indian child's tribe, the court shall transfer the proceeding 10 24 to the jurisdiction of the Indian child's tribe, upon the 10 25 petition of any of the following persons:
  - a. Either of the child's parents.
  - The child's Indian custodian. The child's tribe. b.
  - c.

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- Notwithstanding entry of an objection to a transfer of 10 30 proceedings as described in subsection 10, the court shall reject any objection that is inconsistent with the purposes of 10 32 this chapter, including but not limited to any objection that 10 33 would prevent maintaining the vital relationship between 10 34 Indian tribes and the tribes children and would interfere 10 35 with the policy that the best interest of an Indian child require that the child be placed in a foster or adoptive home 2 that reflects the unique values of Indian culture.
  - 3 12. A transfer of proceedings under subsection 10 may be 4 declined by the tribal court of the Indian child's tribe. I 5 the tribal court declines to assume jurisdiction, the state court shall reassume jurisdiction and shall apply all of the following in any proceeding:
    - a. The requirements of the federal Indian Child Welfare Act.
      - This chapter. b.
- The applicable provisions of any agreement between the 11 12 Indian child's tribe and the state concerning the welfare, 11 13 care, and custody of Indian children.
- 13. If a petition to transfer proceedings as described in 11 14 11 15 subsection 10 is filed, the court shall find good cause to 11 16 deny the petition only if one or more of the following 11 17 circumstances are shown to exist:
- a. The tribal court of the child's tribe declines the 11 19 transfer of jurisdiction.
  - The tribal court does not have subject matter jurisdiction under the laws of the tribe or federal law.
- 11 22 c. Circumstances exist in which the evidence necessary to 11 23 decide the case cannot be presented in the tribal court 11 24 without undue hardship to the parties or the witnesses, and 11 25 the tribal court is unable to mitigate the hardship by making 11 26 arrangements to receive and consider the evidence or testimony 11 27 by use of remote communication, by hearing the evidence or 11 28 testimony at a location convenient to the parties or
- 11 29 witnesses, or by use of other means permitted in the tribal 11 30 court's rules of evidence or discovery.
- 11 31 d. An objection to the transfer is entered in accordance 11 32 with subsection 10.

The Indian child's tribe or tribes and Indian 11 34 custodian have the right to intervene at any point in any 11 35 foster care placement or termination of parental rights 1 proceeding involving the child. The Indian child's tribe 2 shall also have the right to intervene at any point in any 12 12 3 adoption proceeding involving the child. Any member of the Indian child's family may intervene in an adoption proceeding involving the child for the purpose of petitioning the court 12 12 6 for the adoptive placement of the child in accordance with the 12 12 order of preference provided for in this chapter.

15. The state shall give full faith and credit to the public acts, records, judicial proceedings, and judgments of 12 10 any Indian tribe applicable to the Indian child custody

12 11 proceedings. 12 12

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16. In any proceeding in which the court determines 12 13 indigency of the Indian child's parent or Indian custodian, 12 14 the parent or Indian custodian shall have the right to court= 12 15 appointed counsel in any removal, placement, or termination of 12 16 parental rights. The child shall also have the right to 12 17 court=appointed counsel in any removal, placement, termination 12 18 of parental rights, or other permanency proceedings.
12 19 17. Each party to a foster care placement or termination

12 20 of parental rights proceeding involving an Indian child shall 12 21 have the right to examine all reports or other documents filed 12 22 with the court upon which any decision with respect to the

12 23 proceeding may be based. 12 24

- 18. Any person or court involved in the foster care, 12 25 preadoptive placement, or adoptive placement of an Indian 12 26 child shall use the services of the Indian child's tribe or 12 27 tribes, whenever available through the tribe or tribes, in 12 28 seeking to secure placement within the order of placement 12 29 preference established in section 232B.9 and in the 12 30 supervision of the placement.
- 19. A party seeking an involuntary foster care placement 12 32 of or termination of parental rights over an Indian child 12 33 shall provide evidence to the court that active efforts have 12 34 been made to provide remedial services and rehabilitative 12 35 programs designed to prevent the breakup of the Indian family and that these efforts have proved unsuccessful. 2 shall not order the placement or termination, unless the 3 evidence of active efforts shows there has been a vigorous and 4 concerted level of case work beyond the level that typically 5 constitutes reasonable efforts as defined in sections 232.57 6 and 232.102. Reasonable efforts shall not be construed to be 7 active efforts. The active efforts must be made in a manner 8 that takes into account the prevailing social and cultural 9 values, conditions, and way of life of the Indian child's 13 10 tribe. Active efforts shall utilize the available resources 13 11 of the Indian child's extended family, tribe, tribal and other 13 12 Indian social service agencies, and individual Indian 13 13 caregivers. Active efforts shall include but are not limited 13 14 to all of the following:
- a. A request to the Indian child's tribe to convene 13 16 traditional and customary support and resolution actions or 13 17 services.
- b. Identification and participation of tribally designated 13 19 representatives at the earliest point.
- 13 20 c. Consultation with extended family members to identify 13 21 family structure and family support services that may be 13 22 provided by extended family members.
- 13 23 d. Frequent visitation in the Indian child's home and the 13 24 homes of the child's extended family members.
- e. Exhaustion of all tribally appropriate family 13 26 preservation alternatives.
- 13 27 f. Identification and provision of information to the 13 28 child's family concerning community resources that may be able 13 29 to offer housing, financial, and transportation assistance and 13 30 actively assisting the family in accessing the community 13 31 resources.
- 13 32 The state of Iowa recognizes that an Indian tribe may 13 33 contract with another Indian tribe for supervision regarding 13 34 placement, case management, and the provision of services to 13 35 an Indian child.
  - Sec. 7. <u>NEW SECTION</u>. 232B.6 EMERGENCY REMOVAL OF INDIAN CHILD == FOSTER CARE PLACEMENT == TERMINATION OF PARENTAL 3 RIGHTS.
- 14 14 This chapter shall not be construed to prevent the emergency removal of an Indian child who is a resident of or 14 14 6 is domiciled on an Indian reservation, but is temporarily 7 located off the reservation, or is away from the child's 8 parent or Indian custodian, or the emergency placement of such

child in a foster home or institution, under applicable state 14 10 law, in order to prevent imminent physical damage or harm to 14 11 the child. In a case of emergency removal of an Indian child, 14 12 regardless of residence or domicile of the child, the state 14 13 shall ensure that the emergency removal or placement 14 14 terminates immediately when the removal or placement is no 14 15 longer necessary to prevent imminent physical damage or harm 14 16 to the child and shall expeditiously initiate a child custody 14 17 proceeding subject to the provisions of this chapter, transfer 14 18 the child to the jurisdiction of the appropriate Indian tribe, 14 19 or restore the child to the child's parent or Indian 14 20 custodian, as may be appropriate.

2. Within three business days following the issuance of an 14 22 order of emergency removal or placement of an Indian child, the court issuing the order shall notify the Indian child's 14 24 tribe of the emergency removal or placement by registered 14 25 mail, return receipt requested. The notice shall include the 14 26 court order, the petition, if applicable, any information 14 27 required by this chapter, and a statement informing the 14 28 child's tribe of the tribe's right to intervene in the 14 29 proceeding.

14 30 3. A motion, application, or petition commencing an 14 31 emergency or temporary removal under section 232.79 or 232.95 14 32 or foster care placement proceeding under chapter 232 14 33 involving an Indian child shall be accompanied by all of the

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- a. An affidavit containing the names, tribal affiliations, and addresses of the Indian child, and of the child's parents and Indian custodians.
- b. A specific and detailed account of the circumstances
- supporting the removal of the child.
  c. All reports or other documents from each public or private agency involved with the emergency or temporary removal that are filed with the court and upon which any decision may be based. The reports shall include all of the following information, when available:

- (1) The name of each agency.(2) The names of agency administrators and professionals involved in the removal.
- (3) A description of the emergency justifying the removal 15 14 of the child.
  - (4)All observations made and actions taken by the agency.
  - The date, time, and place of each such action. (5) (6)
- The signatures of all agency personnel involved.

  A statement of the specific actions taken and to be (7)15 19 taken by each involved agency to effectuate the safe return of 15 20 the child to the custody of the child's parent or Indian 15 21 custodian.
- 15 22 4. An emergency removal or placement of an Indian child 15 23 shall immediately terminate, and any court order approving the 15 24 removal or placement shall be vacated, when the removal or 15 25 placement is no longer necessary to prevent imminent physical 15 26 damage or harm to the child. In no case shall an emergency 15 27 removal or placement order remain in effect for more than 15 28 fifteen days unless, upon a showing that continuation of the 15 29 order is necessary to prevent imminent physical damage or harm 15 30 to the child, the court extends the order for a period not to 15 31 exceed an additional thirty days. If the Indian child's tribe 15 32 has been identified, the court shall notify the tribe of the 15 33 date and time of any hearing scheduled to determine whether to 15 34 extend an emergency removal or placement order.
  - Upon termination of the emergency removal or placement order, the child shall immediately be returned to the custody of the child's parent or Indian custodian unless any of the following circumstances exist:
  - a. The child is transferred to the jurisdiction of the child's tribe.
- b. In an involuntary foster care placement proceeding pursuant to the federal Indian Child Welfare Act, the court orders that the child shall be placed in foster care upon a determination, supported by clear and convincing evidence, including testimony by qualified expert witnesses, that custody of the child by the child's parent or Indian custodian 16 10 16 11 16 12 is likely to result in serious emotional or physical damage to 16 13 the child.
- 16 14 c. The child's parent or Indian custodian voluntarily 16 15 consents to the foster care placement of the child pursuant to 16 16 the provisions of the federal Indian Child Welfare Act.
- 16 17 6. a. Termination of parental rights over an Indian child 16 18 shall not be ordered in the absence of a determination, 16 19 supported by evidence beyond a reasonable doubt, including the

16 20 testimony of qualified expert witnesses, that the continued 16 21 custody of the child by the child's parent or Indian custodian 16 22 is likely to result in serious emotional or physical damage to 16 23 the child.

b. Foster care placement of an Indian child shall not be 16 25 ordered in the absence of a determination, supported by clear 16 26 and convincing evidence, including the testimony of qualified 16 27 expert witnesses, that the continued custody of the child by 16 28 the child's parent or Indian custodian is likely to result in 16 29 serious emotional or physical damage to the child.

Sec. 8. <u>NEW SECTION</u>. 232B.7 PARENTAL RIGHTS == VOLUNTARY TERMINATION OR FOSTER CARE PLACEMENT.

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- 1. If an Indian child's parent or Indian custodian 16 33 voluntarily consents to a foster care placement of the child 16 34 or to termination of parental rights, the consent shall not be 16 35 valid unless executed in writing and recorded before a judge of a court of competent jurisdiction and accompanied by the judge's certificate that the terms and consequences of the consent were fully explained in detail and were fully 4 understood by the parent or Indian custodian. The court shall 5 also certify that either the parent or Indian custodian fully 6 understood the explanation in English or that it was interpreted into a language that the parent or Indian 8 custodian understood. Notwithstanding section 600A.4 or any 9 other provision of law, any consent for release of custody 17 10 given prior to, or within ten days after, the birth of the 17 11 Indian child shall not be valid.
- 2. An Indian child's parent or Indian custodian may 17 13 withdraw consent to a foster care placement at any time and, 17 14 upon the withdrawal of consent, the child shall be returned to 17 15 the parent or Indian custodian.
- 17 16 3. In a voluntary proceeding for termination of parental 17 17 rights to, or adoptive placement of, an Indian child, the 17 18 consent of the parent may be withdrawn for any reason at any 17 19 time prior to the entry of a final decree of termination or 17 20 adoption, as the case may be, and the child shall be returned 17 21 to the parent.
- 17 22 4. After the entry of a final decree of adoption of an 17 23 Indian child, the parent may withdraw consent to the adoption 17 24 upon the grounds that consent was obtained through fraud or 17 25 duress and may petition the court to vacate the decree. Upon 17 26 a finding that such consent was obtained through fraud or 17 27 duress, the court shall vacate the decree and return the child 17 28 to the parent. However, an adoption which has been effective 17 29 for at least two years shall not be invalidated under the 17 30 provisions of this subsection unless otherwise permitted under 17 31 state law.
- Sec. 9. NEW SECTION. 232B.8 RETURN OF CUSTODY == 17 33 IMPROPER REMOVAL OF CHILD FROM CUSTODY == PROTECTION OF RIGHTS 17 34 OF PARENT OR INDIAN CUSTODIAN.
  - 1. If a final decree of adoption of an Indian child has been vacated or set aside or the adoptive parents voluntarily 2 consent to the termination of their parental rights to the 3 child, a biological parent or prior Indian custodian may 4 petition for return of custody and the court shall grant the petition unless there is a showing, in a proceeding subject to 6 the provisions of this chapter, that the return of custody is
- not in the best interest of the child.

  2. If an Indian child is removed from a foster care home or institution for the purpose of further foster care, 18 10 preadoptive, or adoptive placement, the placement shall be in accordance with the provisions of this chapter, except when an 18 12 Indian child is being returned to the parent or Indian custodian from whose custody the child was originally removed.
- 18 13 18 14 If a petitioner in an Indian child custody proceeding 18 15 before a state court has improperly removed the child from the 18 16 custody of the parent or Indian custodian or has improperly 18 17 retained custody after a visit or other temporary 18 18 relinquishment of custody, the court shall decline jurisdiction over the petition and shall immediately return 18 20 the child to the child's parent or Indian custodian unless 18 21 returning the child to the parent or Indian custodian would subject the child to a substantial and immediate danger or 18 22
- 18 23 threat of such danger. 4. If another state or federal law applicable to a child custody proceeding held under state or federal law provides a 18 25 18 26 higher standard of protection to the rights of the parent or 18 27 Indian custodian of an Indian child than the rights provided 18 28 under this chapter, the court shall apply the higher standard. 18 29 Sec. 10. <u>NEW SECTION</u>. 232B.9 PLACEMENT PREFERENCES.
  - 1. In any adoptive or other permanent placement of an

18 31 Indian child, preference shall be given to a placement with 18 32 one of the following, in descending priority order:

- a. A member of the Indian child's family.
- 18 33 18 34 Other members of the Indian child's tribe. b. 18 35

c. Another Indian family.

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- d. A non=Indian family approved by the Indian child's tribe.
  - A non=Indian family that is committed to enabling the e. child to have extended family visitation and participation in
- the cultural and ceremonial events of the child's tribe.

  2. An emergency removal, foster care, or preadoptive placement of an Indian child shall be in the least restrictive 8 setting which most approximates a family situation and in which the child's special needs, if any, may be met. The child shall also be placed within reasonable proximity to the 19 10 19 11 child's home, taking into account any special needs of the 19 12 child. In any foster care or preadoptive placement, a 19 13 preference shall be given to the child's placement with one of 19 14 the following in descending priority order:
  - a. A member of the child's extended family.
  - A foster home licensed, approved, or specified by the child's tribe.
- c. An Indian foster home licensed or approved by an 19 19 authorized non=Indian licensing authority.
  - d. A child foster care agency approved by an Indian tribe or operated by an Indian organization which has a program suitable to meet the Indian child's needs.
- 19 22 A non=Indian child foster care agency approved by the 19 24 child's tribe.
- f. A non-Indian family committed to enabling the child to 19 26 have extended family visitation and participation in the cultural and ceremonial events of the child's tribe.
- 3. To the greatest possible extent, a placement made in 19 29 accordance with subsection 1 or 2 shall be made in the best 19 30 interest of the child.
- 4. An adoptive placement of an Indian child shall not be 19 32 ordered in the absence of a determination, supported by clear 19 33 and convincing evidence including the testimony of qualified 19 34 expert witnesses, that the placement of the child is in the 19 35 best interest of the child.
  - 5. Notwithstanding the placement preferences listed in subsections 1 and 2, if a different order of placement 3 preference is established by the child's tribe or in a binding 4 agreement between the child's tribe and the state entered into 5 pursuant to section 232B.11, the court or agency effecting the 6 placement shall follow the order of preference established by 7 the tribe or in the agreement.
- 8 6. As appropriate, the placement preference of the Indian 9 child or parent shall be considered. In applying the 20 10 preferences, a consenting parent's request for anonymity shall 20 11 also be given weight by the court or agency effecting the 20 12 placement. Unless there is clear and convincing evidence that 20 13 placement within the order of preference applicable under 20 14 subsection 1, 2, or 5 would be harmful to the Indian child, 20 15 consideration of the preference of the Indian child or parent 20 16 or a parent's request for anonymity shall not be a basis for 20 17 placing an Indian child outside of the applicable order of 20 18 preference.
- 7. The prevailing social and cultural standards of the 20 20 Indian community in which the parent or extended family 20 21 members of an Indian child reside, or with which such parent 20 22 or extended family members maintain social and cultural ties, 20 23 or the prevailing social and cultural standards of the Indian 20 24 child's tribe shall be applied in qualifying any placement 20 25 having a preference under this section. A determination of 20 26 the applicable prevailing social and cultural standards shall 20 27 be confirmed by the testimony or other documented support of 20 28 qualified expert witnesses.
- 8. A record of each foster care placement, emergency 20 30 removal, preadoptive placement or adoptive placement of an 20 31 Indian child, under the laws of this state, shall be 20 32 maintained in perpetuity by the department of human services 20 33 in accordance with section 232B.13. The record shall document 20 34 the active efforts to comply with the applicable order of
- 20 35 preference specified in this section.
  21 1 9. The state of Iowa recognizes the authority of Indian 21 tribes to license foster homes and to license agencies to 3 receive children for control, care, and maintenance outside of 4 the children's own homes, or to place, receive, arrange the 21 21 21 5 placement of, or assist in the placement of children for 6 foster care or adoption. The department of human services and

child=placing agencies licensed under chapter 238 may place 21 8 children in foster homes and facilities licensed by an Indian 21 9 21 10 9 tribe.

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Sec. 11. NEW SECTION. 232B.10 TRIBALLY RECOGNIZED EXPERT WITNESSES == STANDARD OF PROOF == CHANGE OF PLACEMENT. 21 11

- 21 12 1. For the purposes of this section, unless the context 21 13 otherwise requires, a "qualified expert witness" may include, 21 14 but is not limited to, a social worker, sociologist, 21 15 physician, psychologist, traditional tribal therapist and 21 16 healer, spiritual leader, historian, or elder.
- In considering whether to involuntarily place an Indian 21 18 child in foster care or to terminate the parental rights of 21 19 the parent of an Indian child, the court shall require that 21 20 qualified expert witnesses with specific knowledge of the 21 21 child's Indian tribe testify regarding that tribe's family 21 22 organization and child=rearing practices, and regarding 21 23 whether the tribe's culture, customs, and laws would support 21 24 the placement of the child in foster care or the termination 21 25 of parental rights on the grounds that continued custody of 21 26 the child by the parent or Indian custodian is likely to 21 27 result in serious emotional or physical damage to the child.
- In the following descending order of preference, a 21 29 qualified expert witness is a person who is one of the 21 30 following:
- a. A member of the child's Indian tribe who is recognized 21 32 by the child's tribal community as knowledgeable regarding 21 33 tribal customs as the customs pertain to family organization 34 or child=rearing practices.
  - b. A member of another tribe who is formally recognized by the Indian child's tribe as having the knowledge to be a qualified expert witness.
  - c. A layperson having substantial experience in the 4 delivery of child and family services to Indians, and substantial knowledge of the prevailing social and cultural 5 6 standards and child=rearing practices within the Indian child's tribe.
- d. A professional person having substantial education and experience in the person's professional specialty and having 22 10 substantial knowledge of the prevailing social and cultural 22 11 standards and child=rearing practices within the Indian 22 12 child's tribe.
- A professional person having substantial education and e. 22 14 experience in the person's professional specialty and having 22 15 extensive knowledge of the customs, traditions, and values of 22 16 the Indian child's tribe as the customs, traditions, an 22 17 values pertain to family organization and child=rearing 22 18 practices. Prior to accepting the testimony of a qualified 22 19 expert witness described in this lettered paragraph, the court 22 20 shall document the efforts made to secure a qualified expert 22 21 witness described in paragraphs "a", "b", "c", and "d". 22 22 efforts shall include but are not limited to contacting the 22 23 Indian child's tribe's governing body, that tribe's Indian 22 24 Child Welfare Act office, and the tribe's social service 22 25 office.
- NEW SECTION. 232B.11 AGREEMENTS WITH TRIBES FOR Sec. CARE AND CUSTODY OF INDIAN CHILDREN. 22 27
- 22 28 1. The director of human services or the director's 22 29 designee shall make a good faith effort to enter into 22 30 agreements with Indian tribes regarding jurisdiction over 22 31 child custody proceedings and the care and custody of Indian 22 32 children whose tribes have land within Iowa, including but not 22 33 limited to the Sac and Fox tribe, the Omaha tribe, the Ponca 22 34 tribe, and the Winnebago tribe, and whose tribes have an 22 35 Indian child who resides in the state of Iowa. An agreement shall seek to promote the continued existence and integrity of the Indian tribe as a political entity and the vital interest 3 of Indian children in securing and maintaining a political, 4 cultural, and social relationship with their tribes. agreement shall assure that tribal services and Indian 6 organizations or agencies are used to the greatest extent practicable in planning and implementing any action pursuant 8 to the agreement concerning the care and custody of Indian 9 children. If tribal services are not available, an agreement 23 10 shall assure that community services and resources developed 23 11 specifically for Indian families will be used.
- 23 12 2. If an agreement entered into between the tribe and the 23 13 department of human services pertaining to the funding of 23 14 foster care placements for Indian children conflicts with any 23 15 federal or state law, the state in a timely, good faith manner 23 16 shall agree to amend the agreement in a way that prevents any 23 17 interruption of services to eligible Indian children.

An agreement entered into under this section may be 23 19 revoked by either party by giving one hundred eighty days' 23 20 advance written notice to the other party. The revocation 23 21 shall not affect any action or proceeding over which a court 23 22 has already assumed jurisdiction, unless the agreement 23 23 provides otherwise.

Sec. 13. <u>NEW SECTION</u>. 232B.12 PAYMENT OF FOSTER CARE 23 25 EXPENSES.

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- 1. If the department of human services has legal custody 23 27 of an Indian child and that child is placed in foster care 23 28 according to the placement preferences under section 232B.9 23 29 the state shall pay, subject to any applicable federal funding 23 30 limitations and requirements, the cost of the foster care in 23 31 the manner and to the same extent the state pays for foster 23 32 care of non=Indian children, including the administrative and 23 33 training costs associated with the placement. In addition, 23 34 the state shall pay the other costs related to the foster care 23 35 placement of an Indian child as may be provided for in an agreement entered into between a tribe and the state.
  - 2. The department of human services may, subject to any 3 applicable federal funding limitations and requirements and 4 within funds appropriated for foster care services, purchase 5 care for Indian children who are in the custody of a federally 6 recognized Indian tribe or tribally licensed child=placing 7 agency pursuant to parental consent, tribal court order, or 8 state court order; and the purchase of the care is subject to the same eligibility standards and rates of support applicable to other children for whom the department purchases care.
- Sec. 14. <u>NEW SECTION</u>. 232B.13 RECORDS.

  1. The department of human services shall establish an 24 13 automated database where a permanent record shall be 24 14 maintained of every involuntary or voluntary foster care, 24 15 preadoptive placement, or adoptive placement of an Indian 24 16 child that is ordered by a court of this state and in which 24 17 the department was involved. The automated record shall 24 18 document the active efforts made to comply with the order of 24 19 placement preference specified in section 232B.9. An Indian child's placement record shall be maintained in perpetuity by the department of human services and shall include but is not 24 21 24 22 limited to the name, birthdate, and gender of the Indian 24 23 child, and the location of the local department office that 24 24 maintains the original file and documents containing the 24 25 information listed in subsection 2.
- 2. Each county department of human services, state= 24 27 licensed child=placing agency, private attorney, and medical 24 28 facility involved in the involuntary or voluntary foster care 24 29 placement, preadoptive placement, or adoptive placement of an 24 30 Indian child shall maintain in perpetuity a record of the 24 31 placement. The record shall include, but is not limited to, 24 31 placement. 24 32 all of the following information:
  - a. The name and tribal affiliation of the child.
  - b. The location of the child's Indian tribe or tribes.
  - The names and addresses of the child's biological c. 1 parents.
    - The child's certificate of degree of Indian blood. d.
    - The child's tribal enrollment or other membership е. documentation, if any.
      - f. The child's medical records.
    - The social and medical history of the child's g. biological family.
- The names, ages, and gender of the child's siblings. The names, ages, and gender of the child's kinship or i. 25 10 extended family members.
- j. The names and addresses of the child's adoptive 25 12 parents.
- k. The identity of any agency having files or information 25 14 relating to the placement.
- 1. All reports concerning the child or the child's family, including detailed information regarding case plans and other 25 15 25 16 25 17 efforts to rehabilitate the parents of the child.
- A record of efforts made to place the child within and 25 19 outside of the placement preferences under section 232B.9.
- n. A statement of the reason for the final placement 25 20 25 21 decision.
- 3. If a court orders the foster care, preadoptive 25 23 placement, or adoptive placement of an Indian child, the court 25 24 and any state=licensed child=placing agency involved in the 25 25 placement shall provide the department of human services with the records described in subsections 1 and 2.
- 4. A record maintained pursuant to this section by the 25 28 department of human services, a county department of human

25 29 services, state=licensed child=placing agency, private 25 30 attorney, or medical facility shall be made available within 25 31 seven days of a request for the record by the Indian child's

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25 32 tribe or the secretary of the interior. 25 33 5. Upon the request of an Indian individual who is 25 34 eighteen years of age or older, or upon the request of an 25 35 Indian child's parent, Indian custodian, attorney, guardian ad 26 1 litem, guardian, legal custodian, or caseworker of the Indian 2 child, the department of human services, a county department 3 of human services, state=licensed child=placing agency, 4 private attorney, or medical facility shall provide access to 5 the records pertaining to the Indian individual or child maintained pursuant to this section. The records shall also be made available upon the request of the descendants of the Indian individual or child. A record shall be made available 6 maintained pursuant to this section. within seven days of a request for the record by any person 26 10 authorized by this subsection to make the request.

6. Upon application of an Indian individual who is 26 12 eighteen years of age or older and was the subject of an 26 13 adoptive placement, the court that entered the final decree 26 14 shall inform the individual regarding the individual's tribal 26 15 affiliation and any of the individual's biological parents, 26 16 and shall provide such other information as may be necessary 26 17 to protect any rights arising from the individual's tribal 26 18 affiliation. In addition, the court shall provide the individual, through an appropriate order, if necessary, with 26 19 26 20 information described in subsection 2 as may be secured from 26 21 the records maintained pursuant to subsection 2.

7. If a parent of an Indian child wishes to remain 26 23 anonymous, identifying records concerning any such parent 26 24 shall not be released unless necessary to secure, maintain, 26 25 enforce the Indian child's right to enrollment or membership 26 26 in the child's Indian tribe, for determining a right or 26 27 benefit associated with the enrollment or membership, or for 26 28 determining a right to an inheritance.

- 26 29 Sec. 15. <u>NEW SECTION</u>. 232B.14 COMPLIANCE. 26 30 1. The department of human services, in consultation with 26 31 Indian tribes, shall establish standards and procedures for 26 32 the department's review of cases subject to this chapter and 26 33 methods for monitoring the department's compliance with 26 34 provisions of the federal Indian Child Welfare Act and this These standards and procedures and the monitoring 26 35 chapter. 1 methods shall be integrated into the department's structure 2 and plan for the federal government's child and family service review process and any program improvement plan resulting from that process.
  - 2. A court of competent jurisdiction shall vacate a court order and remand the case for appropriate disposition for any of the following violations of this chapter:
  - Failure to notify an Indian parent, Indian custodian, or tribe.
  - b. Failure to recognize the jurisdiction of an Indian tribe.
- 27 12 c. Failure, without cause as specified under this chapter, to transfer jurisdiction to an Indian tribe appropriately seeking transfer. 27 14
  - d. Failure to give full faith and credit to the public
- acts, records, or judicial proceedings of an Indian tribe.
  e. Failure to allow intervention by an Indian custodian or 27 18 Indian tribe, or if applicable, an extended family member.
- f. Failure to return the child to the child's parent or 27 19 27 20 Indian custodian when removal or placement is no longer 27 21 necessary to prevent imminent physical damage or harm.
  - g. Failure to provide the testimony of qualified expert witnesses as required by this chapter.
  - h. Any other violation that is not harmless error,
- 27 25 including but not limited to a failure to comply with 25 27 26 U.S.C. } 1911, 1912, 1913, 1915, 1916, or 1917. 27 27 3. If a petitioner in an Indian child custody proceeding
- 27 28 before a state court has improperly removed the child from the 27 29 custody of the child's parent or Indian custodian or has 27 30 improperly retained custody after a visit or other temporary 27 31 relinquishment of custody, the court shall decline 27 32 jurisdiction over the petition and shall immediately return 33 the child to the child's parent or Indian custodian unless 27 34 returning the child to the parent or Indian custodian would 27 35 subject the child to a substantial and immediate danger or 1 threat of such danger.
  - Section 600.1, Code 2003, is amended by adding 16. 3 the following new unnumbered paragraph:

NEW UNNUMBERED PARAGRAPH. If a proceeding held under this

chapter involves an Indian child as defined in section 232B.3 6 and the proceeding is subject to the Iowa Indian child welfare 28 7 Act under chapter 232B, the proceeding and other actions taken 28 8 in connection with the proceeding or this chapter shall comply 9 with chapter 232B. In any proceeding held or action taken 28 2.8 28 10 under this chapter involving an Indian child, the applicable 28 11 requirements of the federal Adoption and Safe Families Act of 28 12 1999, Pub. L. No. 105=89, shall be applied to the proceeding 28 13 or action in a manner that complies with chapter 232B and the 28 14 federal Indian Child Welfare Act, Pub. L. No. 95=608. Sec. 17. Section 600A.3, Code 2003, is amended by adding the following new unnumbered paragraph: 28 15 28 16 28 17 <u>NEW UNNUMBERED PARAGRAPH</u>. If a proceeding held under this 28 18 chapter involves an Indian child as defined in section 232B.3 28 19 and the proceeding is subject to the Iowa Indian child welfare 28 20 Act under chapter 232B, the proceeding and other actions taken 28 21 in connection with the proceeding or this chapter shall comply 28 22 with chapter 232B. In any proceeding held or action taken 28 23 under this chapter involving an Indian child, the applicable 28 24 requirements of the federal Adoption and Safe Families Act of 28 25 1999, Pub. L. No. 105=89, shall be applied to the proceeding 28 26 or action in a manner that complies with chapter 232B and the 28 27 federal Indian Child Welfare Act, Pub. L. No. 95=608. 28 28 Sec. 18. COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES. The initial review of 28 29 compliance with the requirements of chapter 232B made pursuant 28 30 to section 232B.14, as enacted by this Act, shall be completed 28 31 by June 30, 2004. 28 32 SF 354

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