

Senate File 2186 - Reprinted

SENATE FILE 2186
BY COMMITTEE ON VETERANS
AFFAIRS

(SUCCESSOR TO SF 2053)

(As Amended and Passed by the Senate February 23, 2026)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to child custody and visitation for parents
2 subject to deployments.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 598C.102, subsection 19, paragraph a,
2 Code 2026, is amended to read as follows:

3 a. Active and reserve components of the army, navy, air
4 force, marine corps, space force, or coast guard of the United
5 States; the United States merchant marine; the commissioned
6 corps of the United States public health service; or the
7 commissioned corps of the national oceanic and atmospheric
8 administration of the United States.

9 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 598D.1 Definitions.

10 For purposes of this chapter, unless the context otherwise
11 requires:

12 1. "*Child-custody determination*" means the same as defined
13 in section 598B.102.

14 2. "*Deploying parent*" means a uniformed service member who
15 has been notified of impending short-term deployment and is any
16 of the following:

17 a. A parent of a child under a law of this state other than
18 this chapter.

19 b. An individual who has custodial responsibility for a
20 child under a law of this state other than this chapter.

21 3. "*Other parent*" means the same as defined in section
22 598C.102.

23 4. "*Record*" means the same as defined in section 598C.102.

24 5. "*Short-term deployment*" means the movement or
25 mobilization of a deploying parent for less than thirty days
26 pursuant to uniformed service member orders that meet any of
27 the following conditions:

28 a. Are designated as unaccompanied.

29 b. Do not authorize dependent travel.

30 c. Otherwise do not permit the movement of family members to
31 the location to which the deploying parent is deployed.

32 6. "*Uniformed service member*" means any of the following:

33 a. Active and reserve components of the army, navy, air
34 force, marine corps, space force, or coast guard of the United
35 States; the United States merchant marine; the commissioned

1 corps of the United States public health service; or the
2 commissioned corps of the national oceanic and atmospheric
3 administration of the United States.

4 *b.* The national guard of a state, whether or not activation
5 or performance of duties is pursuant to federal or to state
6 authority.

7 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. 589D.2 Custody and visitation —
8 **short-term deployment.**

9 1. *a.* A deploying parent who is unable to exercise any
10 court-ordered physical care or visitation with the deploying
11 parent's child during a short-term deployment may make up the
12 missed physical care or visitation thirty days immediately
13 preceding the short-term deployment or thirty days immediately
14 following the short-term deployment.

15 *b.* The deploying parent may make up no more than the total
16 number of days of physical care or visitation days that will be
17 missed during the short-term deployment, not to exceed thirty
18 days.

19 2. *a.* To make up the missed physical care or visitation,
20 the deploying parent shall notify the other parent, in a
21 record, of a pending short-term deployment, not later than
22 seven days after receiving notice of the short-term deployment,
23 unless reasonably prevented from doing so by the circumstances
24 of service. If the circumstances of service prevent giving
25 notification within the seven days, the deploying parent shall
26 give the notification as soon as reasonably possible.

27 *b.* The deploying parent shall provide the other parent,
28 in a record, with a plan for fulfilling the physical care
29 or visitation missed during the short-term deployment. The
30 deploying parent shall provide the plan as soon as reasonably
31 possible after notification of short-term deployment is given
32 under paragraph "a".

33 *c.* If a court order currently in effect prohibits disclosure
34 of the address or contact information of the other parent,
35 notification under paragraph "a" or provision of a plan under

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1 paragraph "b" may be made only to the issuing court. If the
2 address of the other parent is available to the issuing court,
3 the court shall forward the notification to the other parent.
4 The court shall keep confidential the address or contact
5 information of the other parent.

6 3. The deploying parent shall file the plan for fulfilling
7 the missed physical care or visitation within any court that
8 has entered a child-custody determination in effect concerning
9 the child who is the subject of the plan.