

Supporting Iowa Children and Families

Department of Human Services 2022 Legislative Proposal

DIVISION I

The current law requires that to be eligible for Child Care Assistance (CCA) the parent is only disabled for a limited period of time, not permanently disabled. By revising code language found in 237A.13 (1d), a family with a permanently disabled parent as a household member could access necessary child care services to allow the other parent in the home to be employed or pursue an education or training program.

DIVISION II

Section 2 and 3 increases the upper age of foster care from 18 to 21 and addresses payment of said services. Youth reaching age 18 in foster care may need additional help transitioning into adulthood. Currently, Iowa Code 234 limits foster care to the child's age 18yo, unless the child is completing a high school diploma or equivalent. This bill amends the definition of child in Iowa Code 234 to allow youth who are court ordered under chapter 232 to foster care or a state institution to remain in foster care beyond age 18, up to their age 21, even if they are finished with their high school education. They could exit foster care and return, if they are under age 21 and it is approved by the department.

Youth who agree to remain in extended foster care would be limited to placement in family foster care and Supervised Apartment Living.

Youth who remain in extended foster care would still need to cooperate with a service plan. Youth who would be better served in the adult disability system would need to be referred there. Iowa Aftercare remains unchanged, so the youth who age out of foster care would effectively choose between aftercare services and the foster care options of supervised apartment living or family foster care, offered in this bill.

DIVISION III

This bill requires inclusion of sibling information in the adoption petition, following a termination of parental rights under Chapter 232, and a plan for ongoing siblings contact if that is in the child's best interest.

The adoption petition would include the copy of any court orders concerning contact between siblings. The bill requires a preplacement investigation report with the adoption petition that describes the relationship with the child and siblings, including contact between the siblings. Any siblings of a child to be adopted should be provided a notice of the hearing if they have not been placed together.

This change would require adult adoptees, who were adopted following a termination of parents' rights pursuant to Iowa Code Chapter 232, are given access to their juvenile court report and the termination of parental rights adoption records through the department. They can currently request a court order of the record "for good cause", but this limits the circumstances under which the request is granted and limits the information available to adult

adoptees. Procedures for adult adoptees who had their parental rights terminated subject to Iowa Code 600 (private adoptions) seeking their adoption records will remain unchanged.

DIVISION IV

Under current law, DHS is unable to disclose the initiation or status of a dependent adult abuse assessment to various financial institutions or the social security administration when there is an allegation of financial exploitation. Additionally, financial institutions and the social security administration are unable to access founded dependent adult abuse information regarding financial exploitation. The inability to share financial exploitation information with these entities places a dependent adult's resources at risk. By adding language to 235B.3 and 235B.6, DHS may share information on the initiation or status of a dependent adult assessment or founded dependent adult information with specified financial entities if the allegation is financial exploitation and if DHS reasonably determines that such disclosure is necessary for the protection of the dependent adult's resources.

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