

FEB 16 2006
HUMAN RESOURCES

HOUSE FILE 2427
BY MASCHER

Passed House, Date _____ Passed Senate, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act providing for establishing a runaway assessment center for
2 each department of human services service area.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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HF 2427

1 Section 1. Section 232.195, Code 2005, is amended to read
2 as follows:

3 232.195 RUNAWAY TREATMENT PLAN.

4 A county may develop a runaway treatment plan to address
5 problems with chronic runaway children in the county. The
6 plan shall identify the problems with chronic runaway children
7 in the county and specific solutions to be implemented by the
8 county, including the development of or participation in a
9 runaway assessment center.

10 Sec. 2. Section 232.196, subsection 1, Code 2005, is
11 amended to read as follows:

12 1. a. As part of a county runaway treatment plan under
13 section 232.195, a county may establish or participate in a
14 runaway assessment center or other plan. ~~The~~ A center or
15 other plan, if established, shall provide services to assess a
16 child who is referred to the center or plan for being a
17 chronic runaway and intensive family counseling services
18 designed to address any problem causing the child to run away.
19 A center shall at least meet the requirements established for
20 providing child foster care under chapter 237.

21 b. Subject to funding appropriated for this purpose, the
22 department shall provide for establishment of a runaway
23 assessment center for each of the departmental service areas
24 identified pursuant to section 217.42. A county may
25 participate in the center established for the service area in
26 which the county is located.

27 Sec. 3. Section 232.196, subsection 2, paragraph d, Code
28 2005, is amended to read as follows:

29 d. A child shall be released from a runaway assessment
30 center, ~~established pursuant to the county plan,~~ to the
31 child's parents, guardian, or custodian not later than forty-
32 eight hours after being placed in the center unless the child
33 is placed in shelter care under section 232.21 or an order is
34 entered under section 232.78. A child whose parents,
35 guardian, or custodian failed to attend counseling at the

1 center or fail to take custody of the child at the end of
2 placement in the center may be the subject of a child in need
3 of assistance petition or such other order as the juvenile
4 court finds to be in the child's best interest.

5 EXPLANATION

6 This bill directs the department of human services to
7 establish a runaway assessment center for each departmental
8 service area, subject to an appropriation made for this
9 purpose.

10 Under current law, Code section 232.195 authorizes a county
11 to develop a treatment plan to address problems with chronic
12 runaway children. Under Code chapter 232, "chronic runaway"
13 means a child who is reported to law enforcement as a runaway
14 more than once in any 30-day period or three or more times in
15 any year. As part of the treatment plan, a county may
16 establish a runaway treatment center. The bill provides that
17 as an alternative to establishing a center, a county may
18 participate in a center and authorizes participation in a
19 center established for the service area in which the county is
20 located.

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