

February 28, 1963.

House File 395

Judiciary 1. . . . . By FALVEY, CUNNINGHAM, ELY, STANLEY,  
*Indefinitely postponed 4/4* VAN ALSTINE, DUNTON and REPPERT.

Passed House, Date..... Passed Senate, Date.....

Vote: Ayes..... Nays..... Vote: Ayes..... Nays.....

Approved.....

# A BILL FOR

An Act establishing a domestic relations conciliator.

*Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:*

1 Section 1. Section five hundred ninety-eight point three  
2 (598.3), Code 1962, is hereby amended by adding thereto the  
3 following:

4 "In all cases involving children under fourteen (14) years  
5 of age and upon application of one of the parties, the clerk of  
6 the district court shall notify the domestic relations con-  
7 ciliator".

1 Sec. 2. Section five hundred ninety-eight point twenty-five  
2 (598.25), Code 1962, is hereby amended by inserting in line  
3 eight (8) following the word "filed" the words "nor until the  
4 domestic relations conciliator has returned the results of his  
5 investigation if an investigation is required by law or re-  
6 questioned by one of the parties".

1 Sec. 3. Chapter five hundred ninety-eight (598), Code 1962,  
2 is hereby amended by adding the following new section:

3 "The judges of the district court shall appoint and fix the  
4 compensation of a domestic relations conciliator who shall be an  
5 officer of the court. In all divorce actions involving children  
6 under fourteen (14) years of age or upon application of one of  
7 the parties to a divorce action, it shall be the duty of the con-  
8 ciliator to investigate the family relationships, economic

9 situation, and past conduct of persons affected, and to bring  
10 about a reconciliation of the parties if possible or advisable.  
11 The conciliator shall invoke the aid of persons experienced in  
12 conciliation matters including the religious advisors of parties  
13 to a divorce. Within forty-five (45) days of notification by  
14 the clerk of court of a pending action requiring investigation,  
15 the conciliator shall file a report of his investigation to-  
16 gether with any recommendations he may care to make. In all  
17 cases where the services of the conciliator are required or re-  
18 quested, a fee of twenty (20) dollars shall be taxed as costs  
19 and shall be paid at the time of filing the petition or request.

EXPLANATION OF HOUSE FILE 395

This bill establishes a conciliator in divorce actions. In Ohio, good conciliation practices have reduced the divorce rate about 12 percent. The costs of conciliation would be borne by the parties to divorce actions, and the active participation of qualified persons in the community would be encouraged in matters of deep concern to a community.