

MAR 7 2002

Laid Over Under Rule 25

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 119

BY WILDERDYKE

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3 A Concurrent Resolution requesting the Supreme Court  
4 to direct the Iowa Court Improvement Project to  
5 review and develop options to improve performance of  
6 guardian ad litem duties.

7 WHEREAS, guardians ad litem have an important role  
8 in protecting the best interest of a child in need of  
9 assistance, a child involved in a delinquency  
10 proceeding, or a child involved in another proceeding  
11 under the juvenile justice code; and

12 WHEREAS, it has been suggested that the delivery of  
13 guardian ad litem services can be improved; NOW

14 THEREFORE,

15 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THE  
16 SENATE CONCURRING, That the Supreme Court is requested  
17 to direct the Iowa Court Improvement Project to review  
18 and develop options to improve performance of guardian  
19 ad litem duties; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the review should  
21 consider other appropriate entities that may perform  
22 the duties of a guardian ad litem and examine the  
23 benefits and limitations of the particular options and  
24 entities considered and identify any associated costs;  
25 and

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That as part of considering  
27 other appropriate entities, the improvement project  
28 should also examine the satisfaction of children,  
29 parents, foster parents, and others with the Court  
30 Appointed Special Advocate Program volunteers serving

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1 as guardians ad litem in Buena Vista, Cherokee,  
2 Monona, Plymouth, and Woodbury counties; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That other options  
4 considered in the review should include the following:  
5 raising guardian ad litem payment amounts; enforcing  
6 the fulfillment of the legal responsibilities of  
7 guardians ad litem by creating consequences for  
8 guardians ad litem who do not fulfill the  
9 responsibilities; and requiring attorneys, as a  
10 condition of continued licensure, to volunteer a  
11 particular amount of time as a guardian ad litem; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the project's report,  
13 including findings and recommendations, should be  
14 reported to the Supreme Court, the Governor, and the  
15 General Assembly on or before December 16, 2002.

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