

FEB 23 2001

JUDICIARY

HOUSE FILE 394

BY CONNORS

Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_

Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to counseling for runaway children.

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

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HF 394

1 Section 1. Section 232.19, subsection 1, paragraph c, Code  
2 2001, is amended to read as follows:

3 c. By a peace officer, when the peace officer has  
4 reasonable grounds to believe the child has run away from the  
5 child's parents, guardian, or custodian, for the purposes of  
6 determining whether the child shall be reunited with the  
7 child's parents, guardian, or custodian, placed in shelter  
8 care, or, if the child is a chronic runaway and the county has  
9 an approved county runaway treatment plan, placed in a runaway  
10 assessment center under section 232.196. If the county does  
11 not have an approved runaway treatment plan or the child is  
12 not a chronic runaway, the child, together with the child's  
13 parent, guardian, or custodian, shall participate in a brief  
14 counseling session, if such services are available in the  
15 county, addressing the reasons why the child has run away.  
16 The counseling may occur at a shelter care facility or another  
17 location.

18 Sec. 2. Section 232.195, Code 2001, is amended to read as  
19 follows:

20 232.195 RUNAWAY TREATMENT PLAN.

21 A county may develop a runaway treatment plan to address  
22 problems with chronic runaway children in the county. The  
23 plan shall identify the problems with chronic runaway children  
24 in the county and specific solutions to be implemented by the  
25 county, including the development of a runaway assessment  
26 center. If a county has not developed a runaway treatment  
27 plan or the child is not a chronic runaway, the child,  
28 together with the child's parent, guardian, or custodian, may  
29 participate in a counseling session as provided in section  
30 232.19, subsection 1, paragraph "c".

31 EXPLANATION

32 This bill relates to counseling for runaway children. The  
33 bill provides that if a county does not have an approved  
34 runaway treatment plan or the child is not a chronic runaway,  
35 a child who has run away and the child's parent or guardian

1 shall participate in a counseling session, if such services  
2 are available in the county, addressing the reasons why the  
3 child ran away. The bill provides that the counseling may  
4 occur at a shelter care facility or any other location.

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