

FEB 6 2002

JUDICIARY

HOUSE FILE 2235

BY HOVERSTEN

Passed House, Date _____ Passed Senate, Date _____

Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____

Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act requesting review of guardian ad litem responsibilities by
2 the Iowa court improvement project.

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

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HF 2235

1 Section 1. GUARDIAN AD LITEM RESPONSIBILITIES.

2 1. The supreme court is requested to direct the Iowa court
3 improvement project to review and develop options to enforce
4 performance of guardian ad litem responsibilities or propose
5 transfer of those responsibilities to another appropriate
6 entity. The review should examine the benefits and
7 limitations of the particular options and entities considered
8 and identify any associated costs.

9 2. As part of considering other appropriate entities, the
10 improvement project should also examine the satisfaction of
11 children, parents, foster parents, and others with the court
12 appointed special advocate program volunteers serving as
13 guardians ad litem in Buena Vista, Cherokee, Monona, Plymouth,
14 and Woodbury counties.

15 3. Other options considered in the review should include
16 the following:

17 a. Raising guardian ad litem payment amounts.

18 b. Enforcing the legal responsibilities of guardians ad
19 litem by creating consequences for guardians ad litem who do
20 not fulfill the responsibilities.

21 c. Requiring attorneys, as a condition of continued
22 licensure, to volunteer a particular amount of time as a
23 guardian ad litem.

24 4. The project's report, including findings and
25 recommendations, should be reported to the supreme court, the
26 governor, and the general assembly on or before December 16,
27 2002.

28 EXPLANATION

29 This bill requests the supreme court to direct the Iowa
30 court improvement project to review and develop options to
31 enforce performance of guardian ad litem responsibilities or
32 propose transfer of those responsibilities to another
33 appropriate entity. The Iowa court improvement project was
34 created by the supreme court.

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