

MAR 28 2002

HUMAN RESOURCES

HOUSE FILE 2604  
BY FORD

Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

A BILL FOR

1 An Act creating an independent child permanency advisory  
2 committee for state policy regarding out-of-home placement of  
3 children.

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

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HF 2604

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 237.24 CHILD PERMANENCY ADVISORY  
2 COMMITTEE.

3 1. A case permanency advisory committee is created as an  
4 independent body to coordinate state policy concerning out-of-  
5 home placement of children and to advise the general assembly,  
6 the judicial branch, department of human services, department  
7 of inspections and appeals, local governments, and others  
8 concerning child permanency issues. The advisory committee  
9 shall issue an annual report and may issue other reports and  
10 recommendations as deemed necessary by the advisory committee.

11 2. Staffing services and other support may be provided to  
12 the child permanency advisory committee by the legislative  
13 council, by any of the interests represented on the committee,  
14 or by other interested persons. Reimbursement of expenses of  
15 members of the committee incurred in connection with official  
16 duties shall be in accordance with legislative council policy.  
17 The legislative council shall appoint at least four members of  
18 the general assembly to serve on the advisory committee in an  
19 ex officio, nonvoting capacity and the voting members of the  
20 advisory committee. Any person with an interest in the  
21 subject matter considered by the advisory committee may  
22 provide nominations of members to the legislative council,  
23 including but not limited to all of the following:

- 24 a. The child and family policy center.  
25 b. The court appointed special advocate program.  
26 c. Department of human services staff.  
27 d. The foster care youth advisory board.  
28 e. Iowa state university of science and technology  
29 personnel who are involved with child welfare improvement  
30 activities.  
31 f. Juvenile court judges.  
32 g. Juvenile court services staff.  
33 h. The state public policy group.  
34 i. State and local citizen foster care review board  
35 members.

- 1 j. Youth policy institute members.
- 2 2. Members shall serve staggered three-year terms.
- 3 Appointments of members of the advisory committee shall comply  
4 with sections 69.16 and 69.16A. Vacancies shall be filled by  
5 the legislative council in the manner of the original  
6 appointment.
- 7 3. The advisory committee shall annually select a  
8 chairperson from its membership. A majority of the members of  
9 the committee shall constitute a quorum.
- 10 4. The advisory committee shall consider issues and  
11 pertinent information in developing recommendations for  
12 appropriate policy for out-of-home placement of children,  
13 approaches to provide an appropriate permanent placement of  
14 such children, and other methods for achieving the best case  
15 permanency results for such children. Initially, the advisory  
16 committee shall perform all of the following functions:
- 17 a. Create long-term mission and vision statements for  
18 foster care and adoption policy in Iowa, including but not  
19 limited to a discussion of the role of foster and adoptive  
20 care in the state's child welfare system.
- 21 b. Explore issues referred by other advisory bodies  
22 considering foster care and adoption provider recruitment and  
23 retention.
- 24 c. Seek to improve the overall child welfare system by  
25 proposing methods for a cohesive approach that reduces  
26 fragmentation.
- 27 d. Review changes in child welfare reform policy and  
28 practices proposed or developed at the federal, state, and  
29 local levels.
- 30 e. Examine the availability and accessibility of support  
31 services to families.
- 32 f. Explore and identify respite care options for foster  
33 care and adoptive families.
- 34 g. Identify child welfare system communication barriers  
35 and solutions.

- 1 h. Examine the impact of state initiatives on foster and  
2 adoptive families.
- 3 i. Identify general and specialized training opportunities  
4 for staff of the department of human services and private  
5 agencies, and for foster and adoptive families.
- 6 j. Facilitate dialogue with community members regarding  
7 foster care and adoptive family recruitment efforts.
- 8 k. Identify a systematic approach for expanding state,  
9 regional, and community collaboration activities involving  
10 child welfare.
- 11 l. Explore a competency-based system for recruiting and  
12 developing foster parents.

13 EXPLANATION

14 This bill creates an independent child permanency advisory  
15 committee for state policy regarding out-of-home placement of  
16 children.

17 New Code section 237.24 creates the advisory body within  
18 the Code provisions relating to foster care review. The  
19 advisory committee members are appointed by the legislative  
20 council, to include at least four legislators in an ex  
21 officio, nonvoting capacity and voting members who may be  
22 nominated by various specified interests. Membership terms  
23 are for staggered three-year periods.

24 The bill requires the advisory committee to issue an annual  
25 report and authorizes issuance of other reports and  
26 recommendations. The bill includes a list of initial  
27 functions to be performed by the advisory committee.

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