

FILED JAN 29 '01

SENATE FILE  
BY KING

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

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act providing for access to certain child abuse information by  
2 a member of the general assembly.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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SF 85  
HUMAN RESOURCES

1 Section 1. Section 235A.15, subsection 8, Code 2001, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 8. Upon the request of the governor or a member of the  
4 general assembly, the department shall disclose child abuse  
5 information to the governor or the member of the general  
6 assembly relating to a specific case of child abuse reported  
7 to the department. The disclosure shall include all  
8 information obtained by the department in the course of  
9 responding to the report of child abuse, including but not  
10 limited to department of human services' information described  
11 in section 217.30, subsection 1, mental health information as  
12 defined in section 228.1, and juvenile court social records  
13 and other information in official juvenile court records  
14 described in section 232.147. The purpose of the disclosure  
15 is for the governor or member of the general assembly to  
16 respond to a citizen's request for an independent review of  
17 the actions of the department and others in responding to a  
18 report of child abuse. The governor or member of the general  
19 assembly may designate a staff person to receive the  
20 disclosure and to respond on the governor's or member's  
21 behalf. A person other than the governor who receives a  
22 disclosure under this subsection must be an officer of the  
23 court or must have completed training as a reporter of child  
24 abuse or comparable training before receiving the disclosure.  
25 A person who receives confidential information disseminated  
26 under this subsection shall not further disseminate,  
27 communicate, or attempt to communicate the information to a  
28 person who is not authorized by this chapter or other  
29 provision of law to have access to the information.

30 EXPLANATION

31 This bill provides for access to certain child abuse  
32 information by a member of the general assembly by amending  
33 Code section 235A.15. Under current law, upon receiving a  
34 request from the governor, the department of human services is  
35 required to disclose child abuse information to the governor

1 relating to a specific case of child abuse reported to the  
2 department. By definition, the term "child abuse information"  
3 includes report information, assessment information, and  
4 disposition information. Under the bill, a member of the  
5 general assembly is included in the disclosure requirement and  
6 the governor or the member may designate a staff person to  
7 receive the disclosure and respond to it.

8 In addition, the bill provides that the disclosure is to  
9 include specific types of information obtained by the  
10 department, including department information, mental health  
11 information, and juvenile court social records. The bill  
12 outlines the purpose of the disclosure to be for the governor  
13 and the member of the general assembly to respond to a  
14 citizen's request for an independent review of actions taken  
15 by the department and others in response to a report of child  
16 abuse.

17 A person other than the governor who receives a disclosure  
18 of child abuse information must have completed child abuse  
19 reporter training or other comparable training before  
20 receiving the disclosure. Further dissemination of the  
21 information disclosed to another person who does not have  
22 legal access to the information is prohibited.

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