

FEB 7 2006  
HUMAN RESOURCES

HOUSE FILE 2287  
BY BERRY

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

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to the training requirements for foster parent  
2 licensure.

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

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HF 2287

1 Section 1. Section 237.5A, Code 2005, is amended to read  
2 as follows:

3 237.5A FOSTER PARENT TRAINING.

4 1. As a condition for initial licensure, each individual  
5 licensee shall complete thirty hours of foster parent training  
6 offered or approved by the department. However, the  
7 department may waive or defer all or part of the initial  
8 training requirement if any of the following circumstances are  
9 applicable:

10 a. The individual licensee is the child's relative, is an  
11 extended family member of the child as defined in section  
12 232B.3, or has another significant connection with the child,  
13 and has completed relevant training in this state or elsewhere  
14 or has a combination of completed relevant training and  
15 experience, and the department deems such training or  
16 combination to be an acceptable equivalent to all or a portion  
17 of the initial licensure training requirement.

18 b. Based upon the circumstances of the child and the  
19 individual licensee, the department finds there is other good  
20 cause to waive or defer all or a portion of the initial  
21 training requirement.

22 2. Prior to annual renewal of licensure, each individual  
23 licensee shall also complete six hours of foster parent  
24 training.

25 3. The initial and annual training shall include but is  
26 not limited to physical care, education, learning  
27 disabilities, referral to and receipt of necessary  
28 professional services, behavioral assessment and modification,  
29 self-assessment, self-living skills, and biological parent  
30 contact.

31 4. An individual licensee may complete the initial or  
32 annual training as part of an approved training program  
33 offered by a public or private agency with expertise in the  
34 provision of child foster care or in related subject areas.  
35 The department shall adopt rules to implement and enforce this

1 training requirement.

2 5. A licensee who is unable to complete six hours of  
3 foster parent training prior to annual licensure renewal  
4 because the licensee is engaged in active duty in the military  
5 service shall be considered to be in compliance with the  
6 training requirement for annual licensure renewal.

7 EXPLANATION

8 This bill relates to the training requirements for foster  
9 parent licensure.

10 Under current law, an individual foster parent prior to  
11 licensure must complete 30 hours of foster parent training  
12 offered or approved by the department of human services. The  
13 bill authorizes the department to waive or defer all or a part  
14 of this requirement for a relative of the child, an extended  
15 family member of the child as defined under Iowa's Indian  
16 child welfare law, or an individual who has another  
17 significant connection with the child. These individuals must  
18 also have completed relevant training in this state or  
19 elsewhere or have a combination of completed relevant training  
20 or experience, which the department deems to be an acceptable  
21 equivalent to all or a portion of the initial licensure  
22 training requirement.

23 The bill also allows the department to waive or defer the  
24 requirement if there is good cause to do so based upon the  
25 circumstances of the child or individual licensee.

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