

FILED FEB 07 2006

HUMAN RESOURCES

SENATE FILE 2165
BY KREIMAN

Passed Senate, Date _____ Passed House, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act providing for the usage of family team meetings prior to
2 the out-of-home placement of a child under a child in need of
3 assistance proceeding.

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

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HUMAN RESOURCES

SF 2165

1 Section 1. Section 232.102, subsection 10, paragraph a,
2 unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 2005, is amended to read as
3 follows:

4 As used in this division, "reasonable efforts" means the
5 efforts made to preserve and unify a family prior to the out-
6 of-home placement of a child in foster care or to eliminate
7 the need for removal of the child or make it possible for the
8 child to safely return to the family's home. If returning the
9 child to the family's home is not appropriate or not possible,
10 reasonable efforts shall include the efforts made in a timely
11 manner to finalize a permanency plan for the child. A child's
12 health and safety shall be the paramount concern in making
13 reasonable efforts. Reasonable efforts made prior to the out-
14 of-home placement of a child shall include family team
15 meetings and may include intensive family preservation
16 services or family-centered services, if the child's safety in
17 the home can be maintained during the time period the family
18 team meetings or provision of services are provided utilized.
19 In determining whether reasonable efforts have been made, the
20 court shall consider both of the following:

21 Sec. 2. Section 232.102, subsection 10, paragraph b, Code
22 2005, is amended by adding the following new subparagraph:

23 NEW SUBPARAGRAPH. (1A) "Family team meeting" means a
24 process of working with the family of a child who is or may be
25 subject to a child in need of assistance proceeding in order
26 to prevent or eliminate the need for removal of the child from
27 the home. In addition to the child, family members of the
28 child, and staff persons or other designees of the department,
29 a family team meeting may include others who are involved with
30 or provide support for the child's family.

31 EXPLANATION

32 This bill provides for the usage of family team meetings
33 prior to the out-of-home placement of a child under a child in
34 need of assistance proceeding. The bill amends Code section
35 232.102, providing for disposition of a child adjudicated as a

1 child in need of assistance. The bill requires the usage of
2 family team meetings provided the child's safety in the home
3 can be maintained during the time period the usage of family
4 team meetings is utilized. The bill makes the usage of family
5 team meetings a part of reasonable efforts made to preserve
6 and unify a family prior to the out-of-home placement of a
7 child in foster care or to eliminate the need for removal of
8 the child or make it possible for the child to safely return
9 to the family's home.

10 The term "family team meeting" is defined as a process of
11 working with the family of a child who is or may be subject to
12 a child in need of assistance proceeding in order to prevent
13 or eliminate the need for removal of the child from the home.
14 In addition to the child, family members of the child, and
15 staff persons or other designees of the department, a family
16 team meeting may include others who are involved with or
17 provide support for the child's family.

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