

House _____ Amendment NO. _____

Offered By

1 AMEND House Committee Substitute for House Bill Nos. 1108 & 1181, Page 2, Section 37.725,
2 Line 21, by inserting after said section and line the following:

3
4 "43.400. As used in sections 43.400 to 43.410, the following terms mean:

5 (1) "Missing child" or "missing juvenile", any person who is under the age of [~~seventeen~~
6 eighteen years or who is in foster care regardless of the person's age or who is an emancipated minor
7 as defined in section 302.178, a homeless youth as defined in section 167.020, or an unaccompanied
8 minor as defined in section 210.121, whose temporary or permanent residence is in the state of
9 Missouri or who is believed to be within the state of Missouri, whose location has not been
10 determined, and who has been reported as missing to a law enforcement agency;

11 (2) "Missing child report", a report prepared on a standard form supplied by the Missouri
12 state highway patrol for the use by private citizens and law enforcement agencies to report missing
13 children or missing juvenile information to the Missouri state highway patrol;

14 (3) "Missing person", a person who is missing and meets one of the following
15 characteristics:

16 (a) Is physically or mentally disabled to the degree that the person is dependent upon an
17 agency or another individual;

18 (b) Is missing under circumstances indicating that the missing person's safety may be in
19 danger;

20 (c) Is missing under involuntary or unknown circumstances; subject to the provisions of (a),
21 (b), (d), (e), and (f) of this subsection;

22 (d) Is a child or juvenile runaway from the residence of a parent, legal guardian, or
23 custodian;

24 (e) Is a child and is missing under circumstances indicating that the person was or is in the
25 presence of or under the control of a party whose presence or control was or is in violation of a
26 permanent or temporary court order and fourteen or more days have elapsed, during which time the
27 party has failed to file any pleading with the court seeking modification of the permanent or
28 temporary court order;

29 (f) Is missing under circumstances indicating that the person was or is in the presence of or
30 under the control of a party whose presence or control was or is in violation of a permanent or

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1 temporary court order and there are reasonable grounds to believe that the person may be taken
2 outside of the United States;

3 (4) "Patrol", the Missouri state highway patrol;

4 (5) "Registrar", the state registrar of vital statistics.

5 43.401. 1. The reporting of missing persons by law enforcement agencies, private citizens,
6 and the responsibilities of the patrol in maintaining accurate records of missing persons are as
7 follows:

8 (1) A person may file a complaint of a missing person with a law enforcement agency
9 having jurisdiction. The complaint shall include, but need not be limited to, the following
10 information:

11 (a) The name of the complainant;

12 (b) The name, address, and phone number of the guardian, if any, of the missing person;

13 (c) The relationship of the complainant to the missing person;

14 (d) The name, age, address, and all identifying characteristics of the missing person;

15 (e) The length of time the person has been missing; and

16 (f) All other information deemed relevant by either the complainant or the law enforcement
17 agency;

18 (2) A report of the complaint of a missing person shall be immediately entered into the
19 Missouri uniform law enforcement system (MULES) and the National Crime Information Center
20 (NCIC) system by the law enforcement agency receiving the complaint, and disseminated to other
21 law enforcement agencies who may come in contact with or be involved in the investigation or
22 location of a missing person;

23 (3) A law enforcement agency with which a complaint of a missing child has been filed
24 shall prepare, as soon as practicable, a standard missing child report. The missing child report shall
25 be maintained as a record by the reporting law enforcement agency during the course of an active
26 investigation;

27 (4) Upon the location of a missing person, or the determination by the law enforcement
28 agency of jurisdiction that the person is no longer missing, the law enforcement agency which
29 reported the missing person shall immediately remove the record of the missing person from the
30 MULES and NCIC files.

31 2. No law enforcement agency shall prevent an immediate active investigation on the basis
32 of an agency rule which specifies an automatic time limitation for a missing person investigation.

33 3. Any agency or placement provider with the care and custody of a child who is missing
34 shall file a missing child complaint with the appropriate law enforcement agency within two hours
35 of determining the child to be missing. The law enforcement agency shall immediately submit
36 information as to the missing child to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
37 (NCMEC) including, but not limited to, the name, date of birth, sex, race, height, weight, and eye
38 and hair color of the child; a recent photograph of the child; and the date and location of the last
39 known contact with the child. The law enforcement agency shall institute a proper investigation and

1 search for the missing child and maintain contact with the agency or placement provider making the
 2 missing child complaint. The missing child's entry shall not be removed from any database or
 3 system until the child is found or the case is closed."; and

4
 5 Further amend said bill, Page 15, Section 195.817, Line 25, by inserting after said section and line
 6 the following:

7
 8 "210.305. 1. When an initial emergency placement of a child is deemed necessary, the
 9 children's division shall immediately begin a diligent search to locate, contact, and place the child
 10 with a grandparent or grandparents or a relative or relatives of the child, subject to subsection 3 of
 11 section 210.565 regarding preference of placement, except when the children's division determines
 12 that placement with a grandparent or grandparents or a relative or relatives is not in the best interest
 13 of the child and subject to the provisions of section 210.482 regarding background checks for
 14 emergency placements. If emergency placement of a child with grandparents or relatives is deemed
 15 not to be in the best interest of the child, the children's division shall document in writing the reason
 16 for denial and shall have just cause to deny the emergency placement. The children's division shall
 17 continue the search for other relatives until the division locates the relatives of the child for
 18 placement or the court excuses further search. Prior to placement of the child in any emergency
 19 placement, the division shall assure that the child's physical needs are met.

20 2. For purposes of this section, the following terms shall mean:

21 (1) "Diligent search", an exhaustive effort to identify and locate the grandparents or relatives
 22 whose identity or location is unknown. "Diligent search" shall include, but is not limited to:

23 (a) Interviews with the child's parent during the course of an investigation, while child
 24 protective services are provided, and while such child is in care;

25 (b) Interviews with the child;

26 (c) Interviews with identified grandparents or relatives throughout the case;

27 (d) Interviews with any other person who is likely to have information about the identity or
 28 location of the person being sought;

29 (e) Comprehensive searches of databases available to the children's division including, but
 30 not limited to, searches of employment, residence, utilities, vehicle registration, child support
 31 enforcement, law enforcement, corrections records, and any other record likely to result in
 32 identifying and locating the person being sought;

33 (f) Appropriate inquiry during the course of hearings in the case; and

34 (g) Any other reasonable means that are likely to identify grandparents, relatives, or other
 35 persons who have demonstrated an ongoing commitment to the child;

36 (2) "Emergency placement", those limited instances when the children's division is placing
 37 for an initial placement a child in the home of private individuals, including neighbors, friends, or
 38 relatives, as a result of a sudden unavailability of the child's primary caretaker.

1 3. A diligent search shall be made to locate, contact, and notify the grandparent or
2 grandparents of the child within three hours from the time the emergency placement is deemed
3 necessary for the child. During such three-hour time period, the child may be placed in an
4 emergency placement. If a grandparent or grandparents of the child cannot be located within the
5 three-hour period, the child may be temporarily placed in emergency placement; except that, after
6 the emergency placement is deemed necessary, the children's division shall continue a diligent
7 search to contact, locate, and place the child with a grandparent or grandparents, or other relatives,
8 with first consideration given to a grandparent for placement, subject to subsection 3 of section
9 210.565 regarding preference of placement.

10 4. A diligent search shall be made to locate, contact, and notify the relative or relatives of
11 the child within thirty days from the time the emergency placement is deemed necessary for the
12 child. The children's division shall continue the search for the relative or relatives until the division
13 locates the relative or relatives of the child for placement, for six months following the child's out-
14 of-home placement, or the court excuses further search, whichever occurs first. The department
15 shall resume search efforts if ordered by the court, a change in the child's placement occurs, or a
16 party shows that continuing the search is in the best interests of the child. The children's division, or
17 an entity under contract with the division, shall use all sources of information, including any known
18 parent or relative, to attempt to locate an appropriate relative as placement.

19 5. ~~[Search progress under subsection 3 or 4 of this section shall be reported at each court~~
20 ~~hearing until the grandparents or relatives are either located or the court excuses further search.]~~
21 The children's division shall file with the court information regarding attempts made under this
22 section within thirty days from the date the child was removed from his or her home, or as otherwise
23 required by the court, and at each periodic review hearing. Such information shall include:

24 (1) A detailed narrative explaining the division's efforts to find and consider each potential
25 placement and the specific outcome;

26 (2) The names of and relevant information about grandparents and relatives of the child;

27 (3) Steps taken by the division to locate and contact grandparents and relatives of the child;

28 (4) Responses received from grandparents and relatives of the child;

29 (5) Dates of each attempted or completed contact with a grandparent or relative of the child;

30 (6) Reasons why a grandparent or relative of the child was not considered for emergency or
31 permanent placement of the child; and

32 (7) All efforts for placement of the child through an interstate compact agreement under
33 section 210.620, including:

34 (a) The names of grandparents or relatives of the child who were considered for an interstate
35 placement;

36 (b) Any pending placement of the child through an interstate compact agreement; and

37 (c) All potential out-of-state placements outside of an interstate compact agreement and the
38 reasons such placements have not been initiated.

1
2 If an out-of-state placement option exists and the division has failed to file a request with the
3 receiving state under the requirements of an interstate compact agreement under section 210.620,
4 the court shall enter a finding that the division has not made a due diligence search and shall order
5 the division to file a request with the receiving state under the terms of the interstate compact.

6 6. All grandparents or relatives to the child identified in a diligent search required by this
7 section, subject to exceptions due to family or domestic violence or other safety concerns, shall be
8 provided with notice, via certified mail as appropriate, that includes, but is not limited to:

9 (1) A specification that an alleged dependent child has been or is being removed from his or
10 her parental custody;

11 (2) An explanation of the options a grandparent or relative has to participate in the care and
12 placement of the alleged dependent child and any options that may be lost by failing to respond to
13 the notice;

14 (3) A description of the process for becoming a licensed foster family home and the
15 additional services and supports available for children placed in approved foster homes;

16 (4) A description of any financial assistance for which a grandparent or relative may be
17 eligible; and

18 (5) An explanation that any response received after thirty days or willful failure to respond
19 upon receiving a notice may result in the grandparent or relative of the child not being considered
20 for placement.

21 7. If a grandparent or relative entitled to notice under this section fails to respond to the
22 division, responds and declines to be considered as placement for the child, or is otherwise presently
23 prevented from being considered as placement for the child and later petitions the court for a change
24 in placement, such person shall provide evidence that such change is in the child's best interests.

25 8. Nothing in this section shall be construed or interpreted to interfere with or supersede
26 laws related to parental rights or judicial authority.

27 210.565. 1. Whenever a child is placed in a foster home and the court has determined
28 pursuant to subsection 4 of this section that foster home placement with relatives is not contrary to
29 the best interest of the child, the children's division shall give foster home placement to relatives of
30 the child. Notwithstanding any rule of the division to the contrary and under section 210.305, the
31 children's division shall complete a diligent search to locate and notify the grandparents, adult
32 siblings, parents of siblings of the child, and all other relatives and determine whether they wish to
33 be considered for placement of the child. Grandparents who request consideration shall be given
34 preference and first consideration for foster home placement of the child. If more than one
35 grandparent requests consideration, the family support team shall make recommendations to the
36 juvenile or family court about which grandparent should be considered for placement.

37 2. As used in this section, the following terms shall mean:

38 (1) "Adult sibling", any brother or sister of whole or half-blood who is at least eighteen
39 years of age;

1 (2) "Relative", a grandparent or any other person related to another by blood or affinity or a
 2 person who is not so related to the child but has a close relationship with the child or the child's
 3 family. A foster parent or kinship caregiver with whom a child has resided for nine months or more
 4 is a person who has a close relationship with the child. The status of a grandparent shall not be
 5 affected by the death or the dissolution of the marriage of a son or daughter;

6 (3) "Sibling", one of two or more individuals who have one or both parents in common
 7 through blood, marriage, or adoption, including siblings as defined by the child's tribal code or
 8 custom.

9 3. The following shall be the order or preference for placement of a child under this section:

10 (1) Grandparents;

11 (2) Adult siblings or parents of siblings;

12 (3) Relatives [~~related by blood or affinity within the third degree~~]; and

13 (4) [~~Other relatives; and~~

14 (5)] Any foster parent who is currently licensed and capable of accepting placement of the
 15 child.

16 4. The preference for placement and first consideration for grandparents or preference for
 17 placement with other relatives created by this section shall only apply where the court finds that
 18 placement with such grandparents or other relatives is not contrary to the best interest of the child
 19 considering all circumstances. If the court finds that it is contrary to the best interest of a child to be
 20 placed with grandparents or other relatives, the court shall make specific findings on the record
 21 detailing the reasons why the best interests of the child necessitate placement of the child with
 22 persons other than grandparents or other relatives. Absent evidence to the contrary, the court may
 23 presume that continuation of the child's placement with his or her current caregivers is in the child's
 24 best interests.

25 5. Recognizing the critical nature of sibling bonds for children, the children's division shall
 26 make reasonable efforts to place siblings in the same foster care, kinship, guardianship, or adoptive
 27 placement, unless doing so would be contrary to the safety or well-being of any of the siblings. If
 28 siblings are not placed together, the children's division shall make reasonable efforts to provide
 29 frequent visitation or other ongoing interaction between the siblings, unless this interaction would
 30 be contrary to a sibling's safety or well-being.

31 6. The age of the child's grandparent or other relative shall not be the only factor that the
 32 children's division takes into consideration when it makes placement decisions and
 33 recommendations to the court about placing the child with such grandparent or other relative.

34 7. For any Native American child placed in protective custody, the children's division shall
 35 comply with the placement requirements set forth in 25 U.S.C. Section 1915.

36 8. A grandparent or other relative may, on a case-by-case basis, have standards for licensure
 37 not related to safety waived for specific children in care that would otherwise impede licensing of
 38 the grandparent's or relative's home. In addition, any person receiving a preference may be licensed
 39 in an expedited manner if a child is placed under such person's care.

1 9. The guardian ad litem shall ascertain the child's wishes and feelings about his or her
2 placement by conducting an interview or interviews with the child, if appropriate based on the
3 child's age and maturity level, which shall be considered as a factor in placement decisions and
4 recommendations, but shall not supersede the preference for relative placement created by this
5 section or be contrary to the child's best interests.

6 210.795. 1. (1) A child in the care and custody of the children's division whose physical
7 whereabouts are unknown to the division, the child's physical custodian, or contracted service
8 providers shall be considered missing and the case manager or placement provider shall
9 immediately inform a law enforcement agency having jurisdiction and the National Center for
10 Missing and Exploited Children within two hours of discovery that the child is missing.

11 (2) The case manager shall document the report number and any relevant information in the
12 child's record.

13 (3) Within twenty-four hours of a report being made under this subsection, the department
14 shall inform and obtain information about the child's disappearance from the child's parents, known
15 relatives, out-of-home caregivers, attorney, guardian or guardian ad litem, court appointed special
16 advocate, juvenile officer, or Indian tribe, as applicable, or from any other person known to the
17 department who may have relevant information regarding the child's disappearance.

18 (4) The case manager shall:

19 (a) Within one week and monthly thereafter, maintain contact with the child's family
20 members, friends, school faculty, and service providers and with any other person or agency
21 involved in the child's case;

22 (b) Document ongoing efforts to locate the child; and

23 (c) Continue contacting law enforcement about the missing child and shall make quarterly
24 reports to the court about the status of the child and efforts to locate the child.

25
26 The department shall contact law enforcement every seven days and document the information
27 provided and any information received.

28 (5) The division shall not petition the court for a release of jurisdiction for the child or stop
29 searching for the child while the child is missing until the child reaches the age of twenty-one.

30 2. The division shall maintain protocols, including appropriate trainings, for conducting
31 ongoing searches for children missing from care. Such protocols shall include preventative
32 measures to identify and mitigate risk to children who are at increased risk for running away or
33 disappearing or of being victims of trafficking as defined under section 566.200.

34 3. The division shall ensure that each child in the care and custody of the division has an
35 updated photograph in the child's record.

36 4. When a child is located, the department shall:

37 (1) Inform all law enforcement agencies and organizations involved in the child's case; and

1 (2) Have in-person contact with the child within twenty-four hours after the child is located
2 to assess the child's health, experiences while absent, the appropriateness of the child returning to
3 the child's current placement, and the factors that contributed to the child's absence.

4 5. Any employee or contractor with the children's division, child welfare agencies, other
5 state agencies, or schools shall, upon becoming aware that an emancipated minor as defined in
6 section 302.178, a homeless youth as defined in section 167.020, or an unaccompanied minor as
7 defined in section 210.121 is missing, inform the appropriate law enforcement agency and the
8 National Center for Missing and Exploited Children within twenty-four hours.

9 6. Within twenty-four hours of a missing child being found, the division shall assess
10 whether the child was a victim of trafficking and determine any factors that caused the child to go
11 missing.

12 7. The legislature may require an annual independent audit of the department's compliance
13 with this section."; and

14 Further amend said bill by amending the title, enacting clause, and intersectional references
15 accordingly.
16