



**House
Legislative
Analysis
Section**

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**REQUIRE MINOR PARENTS TO LIVE
WITH PARENT OR GUARDIAN**

House Bill 4399

Sponsor: Rep. Jack Horton

Committee: Human Services

Complete to 8-31-95

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 4399 AS INTRODUCED 2-14-95

House Bill 4399 would amend the Social Welfare Act by adding a new section requiring a minor parent to live in an adult supervised household as a condition of receiving aid for families with dependent children.

The bill would define a minor parent as an individual under age 18 who has never been married and is either the biological parent of a dependent child living in the same household or is eligible for aid to dependent children as a pregnant woman. An adult supervised household would include either of the following: a) the place of residence of the minor parent's biological, adoptive, or step-parent or legal guardian, or the residence of another adult relative if that residence is maintained as a home for the minor parent and his or her child; or b) a living arrangement that the Department of Social Services determines is maintained as a family setting that provides care and control of the minor parent and his or her child or provides supportive services including counseling, guidance, or supervision.

A minor parent would be exempted from living with his or her parents or guardian, if any of the following circumstances existed: a) no parent or guardian can be located; b) the individual has no parents and/or guardians that will allow him or her to live with them; c) the minor had lived apart from his or her parents or legal guardian for at least one year before the birth of the minor's child or the date of the minor's application for aid to families with dependent children; d) the emotional or physical health or safety of the minor parent or the dependent child would be placed at risk by living in the same residence as the parent or legal guardian. If one of these circumstances existed, the department would have to require the minor parent to live in another adult-supervised home, unless there was good cause for the minor parent to receive assistance without living in a adult-supervised household. The department would have to establish as part of the state plan for AFDC the circumstances that would constitute good cause for allowing the minor parent to live in an unsupervised household.

The bill would require the department to inform a minor parent who applied for AFDC of the bill's requirements, inform him or her of the possible exemptions, and specifically ask the minor if one or more of the exemptions was applicable to him or her. If the minor parent claimed that an exemption was applicable, the department would be required to assist the minor parent in verifying the existence of the claimed exemption.

MCL 400.56h

House Bill 4399 (8-31-95)