

FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
**HOUSE BILL NO. 354**  
**99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

0040H.02C

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

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**AN ACT**

To amend chapter 1, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to the protection of parental rights.

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*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Chapter 1, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be  
2 known as section 1.250, to read as follows:

**1.250. 1. (1) The liberty of a parent to direct the upbringing, education, and care  
2 of his or her child is a fundamental right.**

**3 (2) Neither the state of Missouri nor any political subdivision of this state shall  
4 infringe upon this right without demonstrating a compelling governmental interest. Any  
5 law or policy shall be narrowly tailored to achieve a compelling state interest by the least  
6 restrictive means.**

**7 2. (1) This section applies to all laws of this state, and the implementation of such  
8 laws, whether statutory or otherwise, and whether adopted before or after the enactment  
9 of this section.**

**10 (2) Any statutory law enacted after the date of the enactment of this section is  
11 subject to this section unless such law explicitly excludes such application by reference to  
12 this section.**

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EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.