

# A BILL

FOR AN ACT TO PROVIDE CHEAPER SCHOOL TEXT-BOOKS TO THE PUPILS OF IOWA  
AND UNIFORMITY OF THE SAME.

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

SECTION 1. The state board of examiners shall constitute a state board of school text-  
2 book commissioners for the purposes of this act and for carrying into effect the provisions  
3 thereof.

SEC. 2. After the taking effect of this act, it shall be the duty of the commissioners to  
2 advertise in two papers in Des Moines, one in Dubuque, one in Davenport, one in Sioux City  
3 and one in Council Bluffs for three months, for manuscript for a series of school text-books,  
4 comprising one common school speller, one first reader containing not less than one hundred  
5 pages, one second reader containing two hundred pages and one third reader containing  
6 three hundred pages, one fourth reader containing four hundred pages. Said manuscript to  
7 be original or a compilation of subject matter suitable for a series of text-books as before  
8 described for use in the common schools of this state free from anything partisan or sectarian.

SEC. 3. Six months after the taking effect of this act the board of commissioners shall  
2 meet in the office of the state superintendent and carefully examine all manuscripts offered  
3 for such series and decide which ones, if any, to accept for a series of suitable readers and  
4 speller for the use of the common schools in this state. There is hereby appropriated the  
5 sum of two thousand dollars (\$2,000) out of any money not otherwise appropriated out of  
6 the treasury of the state for said manuscript as the board may direct.

SEC. 4. Upon the acceptance of such manuscript the board shall arrange for the publica-  
2 tion of the same with the state printer and binder, or other printers and publishers, at a price  
3 not to exceed three-fourths the present legal rates now paid. The work to be first-class in  
4 all respects; illustrations, type, paper and binding, and sufficient in quantity to supply the state  
5 with those classes of books.

SEC. 5. The state board of commissioners shall choose a financial agent, conditioned on  
2 a bond of not less than \$10,000, at a salary not to exceed \$1,500 per year, and such other  
3 assistance as may be necessary to carry out this act. They shall furnish all county boards of  
4 education at actual cost such quantities of books as may be necessary to supply the several  
5 counties making the requisition accompanied by cash.

SEC. 6. The county superintendent and board of supervisors shall constitute a county board of education, and shall control and handle all books prepared by the state board for use in the schools of their respective counties, under such rules and regulations in regard to depositaries for the convenience of the people, and in no case shall books be sold by county boards without the cash.

SEC. 7. County boards of supervisors of their respective counties shall at their September meeting following the adoption of this act set apart from the general county fund an amount equivalent to fifty cents for each person of school age in their counties, to be known as the text-book fund, and the county auditor shall keep all accounts in handling school books as a separate fund, issue all orders for books on the authority of the board certified by the county superintendent, and issue warrants on the county treasurer for any moneys for handling the same.

SEC. 8. No teacher after the taking effect of this act shall be required to teach in any other text-books for the grades to which these are adapted than those adopted by the state board of commissioners, and said series shall be known as the Iowa series of readers and speller.

SEC. 9. The county board of supervisors acting as a board of education shall be entitled to the same per diem as now allowed by law for other sessions of the board, and the county superintendent shall act as secretary and keep all records of the board, and all orders shall be certified by the chairman and secretary to the county auditor whose warrant shall be issued on the county treasurer, and all moneys received by the county shall be turned over to the county treasurer and kept with the school text-book fund.

SEC. 10. The books are to be furnished to the retail depositaries at actual cost and freight, and said retailers to sell to not exceed ten per cent advance.

SEC. 11. Upon the petition to the county board of supervisors of a majority of the members of the different school boards in their respective townships they shall submit to the voters of said county at their annual election in November the question of free text-books, and if a majority is cast for free text-books then the board of supervisors shall, under such rules and regulations as they may adopt, furnish the use of such text-books free to the pupils of their respective counties.

SEC. 12. This act being deemed of immediate importance shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the Iowa State *Register* and Des Moines *Leader*, newspapers published in Des Moines, Iowa.