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SENATE FILE 2045

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GETTINGS, DVORSKY, and FRAISE

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

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the establishment of a class size reduction
2 weighting program and increasing the physical plant and
3 equipment levy limit for eligible school districts.

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

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S.F. 2045

1 Section 1. Section 257.6, subsection 5, Code 1997, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 5. WEIGHTED ENROLLMENT. Weighted enrollment is the budget
4 enrollment plus the district's additional enrollment because
5 of special education calculated on December 1 of the base year
6 plus additional pupils added due to the application of the
7 supplementary weighting pursuant to sections 257.11 and
8 257.13.

9 Weighted enrollment for special education support services
10 costs is equal to the weighted enrollment minus the additional
11 pupils added due to the application of the supplementary
12 weighting.

13 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 257.13 CLASS SIZE REDUCTION
14 WEIGHTING PROGRAM.

15 1. There is established a class size reduction weighting
16 program to provide additional funds for school districts that
17 develop a class size reduction plan. To be eligible for
18 supplementary weighting as provided in this section, a school
19 district shall submit annually by April 15 of the base year to
20 the department of education a plan which includes, at a
21 minimum, the goals of reducing class size in kindergarten and
22 grades one through three, instituting professional development
23 to assist teachers in teaching challenging curricula more
24 effectively, and engaging parents, teachers, school
25 administrators, and students in the achievement of the shared
26 goal of raising student achievement levels. In addition, the
27 plan shall provide for methods for measuring student
28 achievement and progress.

29 2. A pupil enrolled in a school district that meets the
30 requirements of subsection 1, and who is assigned to a self-
31 contained classroom in which the student-to-teacher ratio is
32 not more than fifteen students to one teacher, or the
33 equivalent in a school that utilizes team teaching methods,
34 and who is receiving at a minimum the grade-appropriate
35 educational program provided in accordance with section

1 256.11, is assigned a supplementary weighting of two-tenths,
2 which is in addition to any weighting received under section
3 257.6, if the pupil is enrolled in and attending the
4 following:

5 a. Full-day kindergarten, or a combined kindergarten and
6 grade one program, in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1998,
7 or in a succeeding fiscal year.

8 b. Full-day kindergarten, a combined kindergarten and
9 grade one program, or grade one in the fiscal year beginning
10 July 1, 1999, or in a succeeding fiscal year.

11 c. Full-day kindergarten, a combined kindergarten and
12 grade one program, grade one, or grade two in the fiscal year
13 beginning July 1, 2000, or in a succeeding fiscal year.

14 d. Full-day kindergarten, a combined kindergarten and
15 grade one program, grade one, grade two, or grade three in the
16 fiscal year beginning July 1, 2001, or in a succeeding fiscal
17 year.

18 3. A school district shall provide a separate accounting
19 of the pupils eligible for supplemental weighting in
20 accordance with this section, when certifying its actual
21 enrollment to the department of education.

22 Sec. 3. Section 298.2, subsection 2, Code Supplement 1997,
23 is amended to read as follows:

24 2. If the electors of a school district have authorized a
25 voter-approved physical plant and equipment levy not exceeding
26 sixty-seven cents per thousand dollars of assessed valuation
27 in the district prior to July 1, 1997, the levy shall continue
28 for the period authorized under the voter-approved levy, and
29 the maximum levy that can be authorized by the electors under
30 the voter-approved levy on or after July 1, 1997, ~~under this~~
31 ~~section~~, is an additional sixty-seven cents in accordance with
32 subsection 1, or an additional ninety-two cents in accordance
33 with subsections 1 and 7, for a period to coincide with the
34 period for which the initial physical plant and equipment levy
35 in the district was approved.

1 Sec. 4. Section 298.2, Code Supplement 1997, is amended by
2 adding the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 7. Notwithstanding subsection 1, the
4 voter-approved physical plant and equipment levy in a school
5 district may exceed the one dollar and thirty-four cents per
6 thousand dollars of assessed valuation limit by twenty-five
7 cents if the levy exceeding one dollar and thirty-four cents
8 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation is established by a
9 school district that has developed a class size reduction plan
10 pursuant to section 257.13. The revenue from the levy of
11 twenty-five cents above the limits provided for in subsections
12 1 and 2 shall be used for purposes of facilities-related costs
13 associated with reducing class size in kindergarten and grades
14 one through three.

15 Sec. 5. This Act takes effect July 1, 1998, for
16 computations required for the school year beginning July 1,
17 1999.

18 EXPLANATION

19 This bill establishes a class size reduction weighting
20 program to provide additional funds for school districts that
21 submit an annual plan to the department of education that
22 includes, at a minimum, the goals of reducing class size in
23 grades kindergarten through three, instituting professional
24 development to assist teachers in teaching challenging
25 curricula more effectively, and engaging parents, teachers,
26 school administrators, and students in the achievement of the
27 shared goal of raising student achievement. In addition, the
28 plan shall provide for methods for measuring student
29 achievement and progress.

30 The bill begins by assigning a supplemental weighting of
31 0.2 to full-day kindergarten students or students in a
32 combined kindergarten and grade one program in the fiscal year
33 beginning July 1, 1998, and adds one grade per year until by
34 the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2001, all full-day
35 kindergarten through grade three pupils in self-contained

1 classrooms in which the student-to-teacher ratio is not more
2 than 15 students to one teacher, or the equivalent in a school
3 that utilizes team teaching methods, are assigned a
4 supplementary weighting of 0.2.

5 The bill permits the voter-approved physical plant and
6 equipment levy to exceed the current limit of \$1.34 by 0.25
7 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation in the district for
8 school districts participating in the class size reduction
9 program.

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