

FILED FEB 17 1998

EDUCATION

SENATE FILE 2240

BY CONNOLLY

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

A BILL FOR

1 An Act providing for the establishment of an Iowa reading
 2 initiative program and making an appropriation.
 3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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S.F. 2240

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 280.26 IOWA READING INITIATIVE
2 PROGRAM.

3 1. There shall be established within the department of
4 education an Iowa reading initiative program. The intent of
5 the program is to provide the necessary resources to support
6 additional small group reading instruction to third grade
7 students who are determined not to be reading at a rate and
8 comprehension level appropriate to the first semester of the
9 third grade. The goal of the program is the acceleration of
10 the reading rate and comprehension level of students receiving
11 additional small group instruction, so that by the end of the
12 first semester of fourth grade those students involved in the
13 program will have made substantial progress toward, or be
14 reading at, a reading level appropriate to the first semester
15 of the fourth grade.

16 2. Program participants shall be identified based on the
17 results of a reading assessment test developed and
18 administered by the department of education and given to each
19 third grade student enrolled in the public school system
20 across the state during the month of September upon entering
21 the third grade. Those students scoring one semester or more
22 below the reading rate and comprehension level determined
23 appropriate for the first semester of the third grade shall
24 receive an additional forty minutes of small group reading
25 instruction during each school day. A small group receiving
26 additional reading instruction shall consist of between three
27 to five students per teacher. To supplement the additional
28 reading instruction time during the school day, parents of a
29 child participating in the program shall agree to commit to
30 spending a minimum of twenty minutes each night, during the
31 school week, reading to or with their child.

32 3. The department shall develop a sample curriculum for
33 the additional reading instruction program, incorporating
34 strategies practiced and proven to be effective in the reading
35 recovery and the early literacy initiative programs at Ohio

1 state university. Students in the program shall undergo
2 regular assessment and receive reading assignments which
3 increase in difficulty as the student progresses through the
4 program. Overall progress for each student shall be assessed
5 every nine weeks utilizing an assessment tool or mechanism
6 developed by the department. Student achievement of more than
7 nine weeks of progress in reading rate and comprehension level
8 over a nine week period of small group additional reading
9 instruction, as determined by the small group instructor, and
10 more than one semester of growth in reading rate and
11 comprehension during the course of a semester are considered
12 indicators of program success. Students involved in the
13 program who are determined not to have achieved a reading rate
14 and comprehension level appropriate to the first semester of
15 the fourth grade by the time the child has completed the
16 program shall be evaluated for additional special needs
17 testing.

18 4. Each area education agency shall receive, out of the
19 funds appropriated in section 280.27, funding to employ or
20 train as specialists two reading trainers to train third grade
21 teachers to provide additional small group reading
22 instruction.

23 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 280.27 IOWA READING INITIATIVE
24 PROGRAM -- APPROPRIATION.

25 1. There is appropriated annually from the general fund of
26 the state to the department of education the sum of seventeen
27 million dollars to establish, maintain, and administer an Iowa
28 reading initiative program pursuant to section 280.26.

29 2. Moneys appropriated in subsection 1 shall be allocated
30 to area education agencies to employ two small group reading
31 instruction trainers per area education agency, and to school
32 districts throughout the state on a per pupil basis. The
33 amount of moneys allocated to school districts shall be in the
34 proportion that the basic enrollment of a district bears to
35 the sum of the basic enrollments of all school districts in

1 the state for the budget year.

2 3. Notwithstanding section 8.33, unencumbered and
3 unobligated funds appropriated pursuant to this section which
4 are available at the close of the fiscal year shall not revert
5 to the general fund of the state but shall remain available
6 for expenditure for the purposes designated in this section
7 during the succeeding fiscal year.

8 EXPLANATION

9 This bill provides for the establishment of an Iowa reading
10 initiative program. The intent of the program shall be to
11 provide additional small group reading instruction to third
12 grade students who are determined not to be reading at a rate
13 and comprehension level appropriate to their grade level. The
14 goal of the program shall be the acceleration of the reading
15 rate and comprehension level of students receiving additional
16 small group instruction, so that by the end of the first
17 semester of fourth grade those students involved in the
18 program will have made substantial progress toward, or be
19 reading at, a reading level appropriate to their grade level.

20 Participants in the program shall be identified based on
21 the results of a reading assessment test administered to each
22 third grade student enrolled in the public school system
23 across the state during the month of September upon entering
24 the third grade. A student scoring one semester or more below
25 the reading rate and comprehension level determined
26 appropriate shall receive an additional 40 minutes of reading
27 instruction each school day in a small group of approximately
28 three to five students per teacher. Parents would agree to
29 supplement the additional reading instruction by spending a
30 minimum of 20 minutes each school night reading to or with
31 their child.

32 The department of education shall develop a sample
33 curriculum for the additional reading instruction program,
34 incorporating strategies practiced and proven to be effective
35 in the reading recovery and early literacy initiative programs

1 at Ohio state university. Student progress shall be assessed
2 on a regular basis, and assignments shall increase in
3 difficulty as the student advances through the program.
4 Overall progress for each student shall be assessed every nine
5 weeks utilizing an assessment tool or mechanism to be
6 developed by the department. Student achievement of more than
7 nine weeks of progress in reading rate and comprehension level
8 over a nine week period of small group additional reading
9 instruction, as determined by the small group instructor, and
10 more than one semester of growth in reading rate and
11 comprehension during the course of a semester are considered
12 indicators of success. Students involved in the program who
13 are determined not to have achieved a reading rate and
14 comprehension level appropriate to the first semester of the
15 fourth grade by the time the child has completed the program
16 shall be evaluated for additional special needs testing.

17 The bill provides for an appropriation from the general
18 fund to the department of education the sum of \$17 million to
19 establish and administer the program. Each area education
20 agency shall receive funding to employ two reading trainers to
21 train third grade teachers to provide additional small group
22 reading instruction. School districts shall receive funding
23 on a per pupil basis, in the proportion that the basic
24 enrollment of a district bears to the sum of the basic
25 enrollments of all school districts in the state for the
26 budget year. The bill provides that unencumbered and
27 unobligated funds appropriated pursuant to this section which
28 are available at the close of the fiscal year shall not revert
29 to the general fund but shall remain available for expenditure
30 for the purposes designated during the succeeding fiscal year.

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