

2/26/98 Rereterror? *Approved*
FILED FEB 25 1998

SENATE FILE 2347
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO SSB 2200)

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

A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing a school ready children grant program to be
2 administered by community empowerment area boards and the Iowa
3 empowerment board, making an appropriation, and providing an
4 effective date.

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

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S. B. 2347

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 71.1 DEFINITIONS.

2 For the purposes of this chapter:

3 1. "Community empowerment area" means a geographic area
4 designated in accordance with this chapter.

5 2. "Community empowerment area board" or "community board"
6 means the board for a community empowerment area created in
7 accordance with this chapter.

8 3. "Iowa empowerment board" means the board or other body
9 designated in law by the general assembly to oversee the
10 formation of community empowerment areas and to administer the
11 school ready children grant program.

12 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 71.2 COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AREAS.

13 1. The purpose of a community empowerment area is to
14 enable local citizens to collaboratively manage funds on
15 behalf of the children, families, and other citizens residing
16 in the area.

17 2. A community empowerment area shall be formed by using
18 existing school district and county boundaries to the extent
19 possible. Each county and school district in the state shall
20 have the option of participating in a community empowerment
21 area.

22 3. The formation of a community empowerment area and a
23 community empowerment area board is subject to the approval of
24 the Iowa empowerment board. The Iowa empowerment board shall
25 adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A providing for the initial
26 identification of community empowerment areas and procedures
27 for later changing the initially identified areas.

28 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. 71.3 COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AREA
29 BOARDS CREATED.

30 1. A community empowerment area shall be governed by a
31 community empowerment area board. The composition of a
32 community board shall be two-thirds members who are citizens,
33 elected officials, or volunteers and one-third members who are
34 employees of or are paid for representing any of the entities
35 listed in this subsection. The members of a community

1 empowerment area board shall include one or more
2 representatives of any of the following:

- 3 a. A school district.
- 4 b. A county.
- 5 c. A local board of health.
- 6 d. A hospital.
- 7 e. A charitable funding group.
- 8 f. The department of human services.
- 9 g. A religious institution.
- 10 h. An area education agency.
- 11 i. Juvenile court services.
- 12 j. An area substance abuse agency.

13 k. A community action program.

14 2. A community board may designate representatives of
15 service providers or public agency staff to provide technical
16 assistance to the community board.

17 3. A community board may designate a professional advisory
18 council consisting of persons employed by or otherwise paid to
19 represent an entity listed in subsection 1 or other provider
20 of service.

21 Sec. 4. NEW SECTION. 71.4 COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AREA
22 BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES AND AUTHORITY.

23 1. A community empowerment area board shall do the
24 following:

25 a. Designate a public agency of this state, as defined in
26 section 28E.2, to be the fiscal agent for grant moneys and for
27 other moneys administered by the community board.

28 b. Administer community empowerment block grant moneys
29 available to the community board. Eligibility for these block
30 grant moneys shall be limited to those community boards which
31 have developed an approved school ready children grant plan in
32 accordance with this chapter. Community empowerment block
33 grant moneys may include but are not limited to moneys
34 relating to any of the following:

35 (1) Child day care services.

- 1 (2) At-risk programs for preschool children.
- 2 (3) Head start programs.
- 3 (4) Parent education programs.
- 4 (5) Children's health programs.
- 5 (6) The family investment program, including the PROMISE
- 6 JOBS program.
- 7 (7) Substance abuse assessment and referral.
- 8 (8) Department of human services' field and program staff
- 9 supervision and oversight.
- 10 (9) Child welfare services, which may include group foster
- 11 care, rehabilitative treatment services, juvenile court
- 12 services, and other community-based juvenile justice services.
- 13 (10) Other moneys authorized in law for block grant
- 14 funding.
- 15 c. Assume other responsibilities established in law or
- 16 administrative rule.
- 17 2. A community board may do any of the following:
- 18 a. Designate one or more committees for oversight of grant
- 19 moneys awarded to the community empowerment area.
- 20 b. Function as a coordinating body for services directed
- 21 to similar populations by the jurisdictions within the
- 22 community empowerment area.
- 23 Sec. 5. NEW SECTION. 71.5 SCHOOL READY CHILDREN GRANT
- 24 PROGRAM -- ESTABLISHMENT AND ADMINISTRATION.
- 25 1. The departments of education, human services, and
- 26 public health shall jointly develop a school ready children
- 27 grant program which shall provide for all of the following
- 28 components:
- 29 a. Identify the core indicators of performance that will
- 30 be used to assess the effectiveness of the school ready
- 31 children grants, including increasing the basic skill levels
- 32 of students entering school, increasing health status of
- 33 children, reducing the incidence of child abuse and neglect,
- 34 increasing the access of children to an adult mentor,
- 35 increasing parental involvement with their children, and

1 increasing the quality and accessibility of child day care.

2 b. Identify guidelines and a process to be used for
3 determining the readiness of a community empowerment area for
4 administering school ready children grants.

5 c. Provide for technical assistance concerning funding
6 sources, program design, and other pertinent areas.

7 2. The program developed and components identified under
8 subsection 1 are subject to approval by the Iowa empowerment
9 board. The Iowa empowerment board shall provide maximum
10 flexibility to grantees for the use of the grant moneys
11 included in a school ready children grant.

12 3. A school ready children grant shall, at a minimum, be
13 used to provide the following:

14 a. Preschool services provided on a voluntary basis to
15 children deemed at risk of not succeeding in elementary school
16 as determined by the community board and specified in the
17 grant plan developed in accordance with this section.

18 b. Parent education programs promoted to parents of
19 children from birth through five years of age. Parent
20 education programs shall be offered in a flexible manner to
21 accommodate the varying schedules, meeting place requirements,
22 and other needs of working families.

23 c. A comprehensive school ready children grant plan
24 developed by a community board for providing children's
25 services for children from birth through five years of age
26 including but not limited to child development, child care,
27 children's health and safety, assessment provisions to
28 identify chemically exposed infants and children, and parent
29 education services. At a minimum, the plan shall do all of
30 the following:

31 (1) Describe community needs for children from birth
32 through five years of age as identified through ongoing
33 assessments.

34 (2) Describe the current and desired levels of community
35 coordination of services for children from birth through five

1 years of age.

2 (3) Identify all federal, state, local, and private
3 funding sources available in the community empowerment area
4 that will be used to provide services to children from birth
5 through five years of age.

6 (4) Describe how the funding source will be used
7 collaboratively and the degree to which the moneys can be
8 combined to provide the necessary services.

9 (5) Identify the results the community board expects to
10 achieve through implementation of the school ready children
11 grant program, and identify community-specific quantifiable
12 performance indicators that can be measured and reported in
13 the annual report.

14 5. An annual report on the effectiveness of the grant
15 program in addressing school readiness and children's health
16 and safety needs shall be submitted by the community board to
17 the Iowa empowerment board and to the local governing bodies.
18 The annual report shall indicate the effectiveness of the
19 community board in achieving state and locally determined
20 goals.

21 6. A school ready children grant to a community board
22 shall be awarded for a five-year period, with annual payments
23 made to the community board on or before October 1 of each
24 fiscal year. However, receipt of continued funding is subject
25 to submission of the required annual report.

26 The Iowa empowerment board shall distribute school ready
27 children grant moneys to community boards with approved
28 comprehensive school ready children grant plans in accordance
29 with the following formula:

30 a. A funding percentage shall be identified for each
31 school district in the state. The funding percentage shall be
32 the school district's proportion of the children who are
33 enrolled in the school district first through sixth grade
34 qualifying for free or reduced price meals for the school year
35 preceding the fiscal year in which the moneys are to be paid

1 compared to all children in the state who are enrolled in
2 first through sixth grade qualifying for free or reduced price
3 meals for the same school year.

4 b. A community empowerment area funding percentage shall
5 be determined by adding the funding percentages for each
6 school district in the community empowerment area.

7 c. The maximum annual grant amount for a community
8 empowerment area is the area's funding percentage of the
9 amount appropriated for school ready children grants for a
10 fiscal year.

11 Sec. 6. NEW SECTION. 7I.6 IOWA EMPOWERMENT FUND.

12 1. An Iowa empowerment fund is created in the state
13 treasury under the authority of the Iowa empowerment board.
14 The moneys in the Iowa empowerment fund are not subject to
15 section 8.33 and shall not be transferred, used, obligated,
16 appropriated, or otherwise encumbered except as provided by
17 law. Notwithstanding section 12C.7, subsection 2, interest or
18 earnings on moneys deposited in the Iowa empowerment fund
19 shall be credited to the fund.

20 2. A school ready children grants account is created in
21 the Iowa empowerment fund and moneys credited to the account
22 shall be distributed in the form of grants to community
23 empowerment areas as provided in law.

24 Sec. 7. SCHOOL READY CHILDREN GRANTS. There is
25 appropriated from the general fund of the state to the Iowa
26 empowerment fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1998,
27 and ending June 30, 1999, the following amount, or so much
28 thereof as is necessary, to be used for the purpose
29 designated:

30 For deposit to the credit of the school ready children
31 grants account:
32 \$ 5,200,000

33 Sec. 8. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act, being deemed of
34 immediate importance, takes effect upon enactment.

35 EXPLANATION

1 This bill establishes a school ready children grant program
2 to be administered by community empowerment area boards and
3 the Iowa empowerment board.

4 New Code section 71.1 includes definitions of community
5 empowerment area, community empowerment area board, and Iowa
6 empowerment board.

7 New Code section 71.2 provides requirements for designating
8 community empowerment areas.

9 New Code section 71.3 provides requirements for counties
10 and school districts to designate community empowerment area
11 boards.

12 New Code section 71.4 outlines the responsibilities and
13 authority of a community empowerment area board.

14 New Code section 71.5 creates the school ready grant
15 program.

16 The departments of education, human services, and public
17 health must jointly determine the core indicators of
18 performance that will be used to assess the effectiveness of
19 the grants, and establish guidelines and a process to be used
20 in selecting community empowerment areas for grants. The bill
21 directs the Iowa empowerment board to adopt rules to
22 administer the program.

23 The bill requires grantees to develop a plan and submit an
24 annual report, and the bill lists the programs and services a
25 grantee must provide.

26 A grant may be awarded for a five-year period contingent
27 upon a community empowerment area board submitting an annual
28 report. A funding formula is provided for determining the
29 distribution of grant moneys to community empowerment areas
30 for each fiscal year.

31 New Code section 71.6 creates an Iowa empowerment fund.
32 Moneys deposited into the fund are not subject to reversion,
33 transfer, or appropriation except as provided by law.
34 Interest or earnings on moneys in the fund are to be credited
35 to the fund. A school ready children grants account is

1 created in the fund to be used for distribution of grants to
2 community empowerment areas. A general fund appropriation is
3 made to the account.

4 The bill takes effect upon enactment.

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Boettger
Kramer
Redwine
Tinsman
Szymoniak
Neuhauser
Kibbie

SSB 2200
Education

Submitted By
(SF) HF 2347
SENATE FILE
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION BILL BY
CHAIRPERSON REDFERN)

Passed Senate, Date _____ Passed House, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
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17 2. A community empowerment area shall be formed by using
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19 possible. Each county and school district in the state shall
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23 community empowerment area board is subject to the approval of
24 the Iowa empowerment board. The Iowa empowerment board shall
25 adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A providing for the initial
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34 employees of or are paid for representing any of the entities
35 listed in this subsection. The members of a community

1 empowerment area board shall include one or more
2 representatives of any of the following:

- 3 a. A school district.
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14 2. A community board may designate representatives of
15 service providers or public agency staff to provide technical
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17 3. A community board may designate a professional advisory
18 council consisting of persons employed by or otherwise paid to
19 represent an entity listed in subsection 1 or other provider
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21 Sec. 4. NEW SECTION. 7I.4 COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AREA
22 BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES AND AUTHORITY.

23 1. A community empowerment area board shall do the
24 following:

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26 section 28E.2, to be the fiscal agent for grant moneys and for
27 other moneys administered by the community board.

28 b. Administer community empowerment block grant moneys
29 available to the community board. Eligibility for these block
30 grant moneys shall be limited to those community boards which
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- 13 (10) Other moneys authorized in law for block grant
- 14 funding.
- 15 c. Assume other responsibilities established in law or
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- 17 2. A community board may do any of the following:
- 18 a. Designate one or more committees for oversight of grant
- 19 moneys awarded to the community empowerment area.
- 20 b. Function as a coordinating body for services directed
- 21 to similar populations by the jurisdictions within the
- 22 community empowerment area.
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- 24 PROGRAM -- ESTABLISHMENT AND ADMINISTRATION.
- 25 1. The departments of education, human services, and
- 26 public health shall jointly develop a school ready children
- 27 grant program which shall provide for all of the following
- 28 components:
- 29 a. Identify the core indicators of performance that will
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- 31 children grants, including increasing the basic skill levels
- 32 of students entering school, increasing health status of
- 33 children, reducing the incidence of child abuse and neglect,
- 34 increasing the access of children to an adult mentor,
- 35 increasing parental involvement with their children, and

1 increasing the quality and accessibility of child day care.

2 b. Identify guidelines and a process to be used for
3 determining the readiness of a community empowerment area for
4 administering school ready children grants.

5 c. Provide for technical assistance concerning funding
6 sources, program design, and other pertinent areas.

7 2. The program developed and components identified under
8 subsection 1 are subject to approval by the Iowa empowerment
9 board. The Iowa empowerment board shall provide maximum
10 flexibility to grantees for the use of the grant moneys
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12 3. A school ready children grant shall, at a minimum, be
13 used to provide the following:

14 a. Preschool services provided on a voluntary basis to
15 children deemed at risk of not succeeding in elementary school
16 as determined by the community board and specified in the
17 grant plan developed in accordance with this section.

18 b. Parent education programs promoted to parents of
19 children from birth through five years of age. Parent
20 education programs shall be offered in a flexible manner to
21 accommodate the varying schedules, meeting place requirements,
22 and other needs of working families.

23 c. A comprehensive school ready children grant plan
24 developed by a community board for providing children's
25 services for children from birth through five years of age
26 including but not limited to child development, child care,
27 children's health and safety, assessment provisions to
28 identify chemically exposed infants and children, and parent
29 education services. At a minimum, the plan shall do all of
30 the following:

31 (1) Describe community needs for children from birth
32 through five years of age as identified through ongoing
33 assessments.

34 (2) Describe the current and desired levels of community
35 coordination of services for children from birth through five

1 years of age.

2 (3) Identify all federal, state, local, and private
3 funding sources available in the community empowerment area
4 that will be used to provide services to children from birth
5 through five years of age.

6 (4) Describe how the funding source will be used
7 collaboratively and the degree to which the moneys can be
8 combined to provide the necessary services.

9 (5) Identify the results the community board expects to
10 achieve through implementation of the school ready children
11 grant program, and identify community-specific quantifiable
12 performance indicators that can be measured and reported in
13 the annual report.

14 5. An annual report on the effectiveness of the grant
15 program in addressing school readiness and children's health
16 and safety needs shall be submitted by the community board to
17 the Iowa empowerment board and to the local governing bodies.
18 The annual report shall indicate the effectiveness of the
19 community board in achieving state and locally determined
20 goals.

21 6. A school ready children grant to a community board
22 shall be awarded for a five-year period, with annual payments
23 made to the community board on or before October 1 of each
24 fiscal year. However, receipt of continued funding is subject
25 to submission of the required annual report.

26 The Iowa empowerment board shall distribute school ready
27 children grant moneys to community boards with approved
28 comprehensive school ready children grant plans in accordance
29 with the following formula:

30 a. An at-risk percentage shall be identified for each
31 school district in the state. The at-risk percentage shall be
32 the school district's proportion of the children who are
33 enrolled in the school district first through sixth grade
34 qualifying for free or reduced price meals for the school year
35 preceding the fiscal year in which the moneys are to be paid

1 compared to all children in the state who are enrolled in
2 first through sixth grade qualifying for free or reduced price
3 meals for the same school year.

4 b. A community empowerment area at-risk percentage shall
5 be determined by adding the at-risk percentages for each
6 school district in the community empowerment area.

7 c. The maximum annual grant amount for a community
8 empowerment area is the area's at-risk percentage of the
9 amount appropriated for school ready children grants for a
10 fiscal year.

11 Sec. 6. NEW SECTION. 71.6 IOWA EMPOWERMENT FUND.

12 1. An Iowa empowerment fund is created in the state
13 treasury under the authority of the Iowa empowerment board.
14 The moneys in the Iowa empowerment fund are not subject to
15 section 8.33 and shall not be transferred, used, obligated,
16 appropriated, or otherwise encumbered except as provided by
17 law. Notwithstanding section 12C.7, subsection 2, interest or
18 earnings on moneys deposited in the Iowa empowerment fund
19 shall be credited to the fund. Moneys in the Iowa empowerment
20 fund may be used for cash flow purposes provided that any
21 moneys so allocated are returned to the fund by the end of
22 each fiscal year. However, the fund shall be considered a
23 special account for the purposes of section 8.53.

24 2. A school ready children grants account is created in
25 the Iowa empowerment fund and moneys credited to the account
26 shall be distributed in the form of grants to community
27 empowerment areas as provided in law.

28 Sec. 7. SCHOOL READY CHILDREN GRANTS. There is
29 appropriated from the general fund of the state to the Iowa
30 empowerment fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1998,
31 and ending June 30, 1999, the following amount, or so much
32 thereof as is necessary, to be used for the purpose
33 designated:

34 For deposit to the credit of the school ready children
35 grants account:

1 \$ 5,200,000

2 Sec. 8. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act, being deemed of
3 immediate importance, takes effect upon enactment.

4 EXPLANATION

5 This bill establishes a school ready children grant program
6 to be administered by community empowerment area boards and
7 the Iowa empowerment board.

8 New Code section 7I.1 includes definitions of community
9 empowerment area, community empowerment area board; and Iowa
10 empowerment board.

11 New Code section 7I.2 provides requirements for designating
12 community empowerment areas.

13 New Code section 7I.3 provides requirements for counties
14 and school districts to designate community empowerment area
15 boards.

16 New Code section 7I.4 outlines the responsibilities and
17 authority of a community empowerment area board.

18 New Code section 7I.5 creates the school ready grant
19 program.

20 The departments of education, human services, and public
21 health must jointly determine the core indicators of
22 performance that will be used to assess the effectiveness of
23 the grants, and establish guidelines and a process to be used
24 in selecting community empowerment areas for grants. The bill
25 directs the Iowa empowerment board to adopt rules to
26 administer the program.

27 The bill requires grantees to develop a plan and submit an
28 annual report, and the bill lists the programs and services a
29 grantee must provide.

30 A grant may be awarded for a five-year period contingent
31 upon a community empowerment area board submitting an annual
32 report. A funding formula is provided for determining the
33 distribution of grant moneys to community empowerment areas
34 for each fiscal year.

35 New Code section 7I.6 creates an Iowa empowerment fund.

1 Moneys deposited into the fund are not subject to reversion,
 2 transfer, or appropriation except as provided by law.
 3 Interest or earnings on moneys in the fund are to be credited
 4 to the fund. A school ready children grants account is
 5 created in the fund to be used for distribution of grants to
 6 community empowerment areas. A general fund appropriation is
 7 made to the account.

8 The bill takes effect upon enactment.

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