

House File 250 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 250

BY KLEIN

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to school district transportation costs
2 by making appropriations to be used for transportation
3 assistance aid and including effective date and
4 applicability provisions.
5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 257.31, subsection 17, paragraphs a and
2 d, Code 2015, are amended to read as follows:

3 a. If a school district's average transportation costs per
4 pupil exceed the state average transportation costs per pupil
5 determined under paragraph "c" by one hundred fifty percent, the
6 committee may shall grant transportation assistance aid to the
7 district if the district meets the requirements of paragraph
8 "b". Such aid shall be miscellaneous income and shall not be
9 included in district cost.

10 d. (1) For each fiscal year beginning on or after July
11 1, 2015, there is appropriated from the general fund of the
12 state to the committee an amount necessary, less the amount
13 transferred to the committee under subparagraph (2), to provide
14 transportation assistance aid in the amount determined under
15 subparagraph (3) for each school district with an average
16 transportation costs per pupil that exceeds the state average
17 transportation costs per pupil determined under paragraph "c".

18 (2) Funds transferred to the committee in accordance with
19 section 321.34, subsection 22, are appropriated to and may be
20 expended for the purposes of the committee, as described in
21 this section subsection. However, highest priority shall be
22 given to districts that meet the conditions described in this
23 subsection. Notwithstanding any other provision of the Code,
24 unencumbered or unobligated funds transferred to the committee
25 pursuant to section 321.34, subsection 22, remaining on June
26 30 of the fiscal year for which the funds were transferred,
27 shall not revert but shall be available for expenditure for the
28 purposes of this subsection in subsequent fiscal years.

29 (3) For fiscal years beginning on or after July 1, 2015,
30 the amount of transportation assistance aid for each district
31 eligible under this subsection shall be equal to the district's
32 actual enrollment used to calculate the district's average
33 transportation costs per pupil under section 257.31, subsection
34 17, paragraph "c", multiplied by the difference between the
35 district's average transportation costs per pupil and the state

1 average transportation costs per pupil, as those amounts are
2 determined under section 257.31, subsection 17, paragraph "c".

3 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE UPON ENACTMENT. This Act, being deemed of
4 immediate importance, takes effect upon enactment.

5 Sec. 3. APPLICABILITY. This Act applies to school budget
6 years beginning on or after July 1, 2015.

7 EXPLANATION

8 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
9 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

10 Current Code section 257.31(17) authorizes the school budget
11 review committee to grant transportation assistance aid to
12 a school district if the district's average transportation
13 costs per pupil exceed the state average transportation costs
14 per pupil by 150 percent and if the district meets certain
15 data reporting requirements. Currently, the funding for such
16 transportation assistance aid comes from a transfer of fees
17 collected from the issuance of certain education license plates
18 under Code section 321.32(34) and is considered miscellaneous
19 income and is not included in district cost.

20 Under this bill, if a school district's average
21 transportation costs per pupil exceed the state average
22 transportation costs per pupil and the district meets certain
23 data reporting requirements, the school budget review committee
24 is required to grant transportation assistance aid to the
25 district. For fiscal years beginning on or after July 1,
26 2015, the amount of transportation assistance aid for each
27 district eligible under the bill is equal to the district's
28 actual enrollment used to calculate the district's average
29 transportation costs, multiplied by the remainder of the
30 district's average transportation costs per pupil minus the
31 state average transportation costs per pupil.

32 For each fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2015,
33 the bill appropriates to the school budget review committee
34 from the general fund of the state an amount necessary, less
35 the amount transferred to the committee from the collection

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1 of education license plate fees, to provide transportation
2 assistance aid in the amount determined under the bill. The
3 bill also strikes a provision prohibiting the reversion of the
4 license plate fees appropriated to the school budget review
5 committee for the purposes of transportation assistance aid.

6 The bill takes effect upon enactment and applies to school
7 budget years beginning on or after July 1, 2015.