

**House Study Bill 156 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE \_\_\_\_\_  
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE  
ON EDUCATION BILL BY  
CHAIRPERSON JORGENSEN)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to the programs of the Iowa commission on  
2 volunteer service by establishing an Iowa reading corps and  
3 specifying uses of funds.  
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 15H.5, subsection 5, paragraph a, Code  
2 2015, is amended to read as follows:

3 a. Funding for the Iowa summer youth corps program, ~~and~~ the  
4 Iowa green corps program established pursuant to section 15H.6,  
5 and the Iowa reading corps program established pursuant to  
6 section 15H.7 shall be obtained from private sector, and local,  
7 state, and federal government sources, or from other available  
8 funds credited to the community programs account, which shall  
9 be created within the economic development authority under  
10 the authority of the commission. Moneys available in the  
11 account for a fiscal year are appropriated to the commission  
12 to be used for the programs. The commission may establish  
13 an escrow account within the authority and obligate moneys  
14 within that escrow account for tuition or program payments to  
15 be made beyond the term of any fiscal year. Notwithstanding  
16 section 12C.7, subsection 2, interest earned on moneys in the  
17 community programs account shall be credited to the account.  
18 Notwithstanding section 8.33, moneys in the community programs  
19 account or escrow account shall not revert to the general fund  
20 but shall remain available for expenditure in future fiscal  
21 years.

22 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 15H.7 Iowa reading corps.

23 1. a. The Iowa commission on volunteer service, in  
24 collaboration with the department of education, may establish  
25 an Iowa reading corps program to provide Iowa reading corps  
26 Americorps members with a data-based, problem-solving model  
27 of literacy instruction to use in tutoring students from  
28 prekindergarten to third grade who are not proficient in  
29 reading or who are at risk of becoming not proficient in  
30 reading.

31 b. The program shall incorporate models of the evaluation  
32 and teaching of early literacy skills, including comprehensive,  
33 research-based reading instruction which has been reviewed and  
34 approved by the department of education in collaboration with  
35 the Iowa reading research center established by section 256.9,

1 subsection 53, paragraph "c".

2 2. a. The models of literacy instruction utilized by Iowa  
3 reading corps Americorps members shall align with literacy  
4 program goals and strategies developed by the state department  
5 of education and the Iowa reading research center.

6 b. The commission, in collaboration with the department of  
7 education, may adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A to implement  
8 and administer this section.

9 3. The commission may use moneys in and lawfully available  
10 to the community programs account created in section 15H.5 to  
11 fund the program.

12 4. The commission shall submit an annual report to the  
13 general assembly and the state department of education that  
14 records and evaluates program data to determine the efficacy  
15 of the program.

16 EXPLANATION

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

19 This bill concerns programs administered by the Iowa  
20 commission on volunteer service (commission). The bill  
21 allows the commission, in collaboration with the department  
22 of education, to establish the Iowa reading corps. The Iowa  
23 reading corps would provide Iowa reading corps Americorps  
24 members with a data-based, problem-solving model of literacy  
25 instruction to use in tutoring students, from prekindergarten  
26 to third grade that are either not proficient in reading or at  
27 risk of becoming not proficient in reading. The bill requires  
28 all models of literacy instruction used by Iowa reading corps  
29 Americorps members to align with literacy program goals and  
30 strategies developed by the Iowa department of education  
31 and the Iowa reading research center. The bill allows the  
32 commission to use moneys in and available to the community  
33 programs account established in current Code section 15H.5 to  
34 fund the program. The bill allows the commission to establish  
35 an escrow account within the economic development authority and

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1 to obligate moneys within that account for tuition or program  
2 payments made beyond the term of a fiscal year.