

Senate File 281 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 281

BY HOGG

A BILL FOR

1 An Act providing for the establishment of school-based mental
2 health services pilot projects to be implemented by the area
3 education agencies and making appropriations.

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

1 Section 1. SCHOOL-BASED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES PILOT
2 PROJECTS. There is appropriated from the general fund of
3 the state to the department of education for the fiscal year
4 beginning July 1, 2015, and ending June 30, 2016, the following
5 amount, or so much thereof as is necessary, to be used for the
6 purposes designated:

7 For purposes of awarding grants to area education agencies
8 to provide school-based mental health services in partnership
9 with local mental health providers to students in Iowa's school
10 districts who could benefit from mental health counseling,
11 and referrals for those students who need more intense mental
12 health counseling:

13 \$ 2,500,000

14 The department shall as equitably as possible distribute the
15 moneys appropriated under this section to each area education
16 agency while providing for maximization of local funding for
17 the provision of mental health services to as many students as
18 possible in accordance with this section. The department shall
19 develop program evaluation criteria and the area education
20 agencies shall provide to the department any information
21 requested by the department regarding the pilot projects
22 implemented under this section. The department shall submit
23 its findings and recommendations in a report to the governor
24 and the general assembly by January 1, 2017.

25 EXPLANATION

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

28 This bill appropriates \$2.5 million to the department of
29 education for FY 2015-2016 for purposes of awarding grants
30 to area education agencies (AEAs) to provide school-based
31 mental health services in partnership with local mental health
32 providers to students in Iowa's school districts who could
33 benefit from mental health counseling, and referrals for those
34 students who need more intense mental health counseling.

35 The department must as equitably as possible distribute

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1 the moneys appropriated to each AEA while providing for
2 maximization of local funding for the provision of mental
3 health services. The department shall develop program
4 evaluation criteria and submit its findings and recommendations
5 in a report to the governor and the general assembly by January
6 1, 2017.