

CHAPTER 103**TARGETED SMALL BUSINESSES***S.F. 257*

AN ACT changing the definition of targeted small business and providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

Section 1. Section 15.102, subsection 5, Code 1991, is amended to read as follows:

5. "Targeted small business" means a small business which is fifty-one percent or more owned, operated, and actively managed by one or more women or minority persons, provided the business meets all of the following requirements:

a. Is located in this state.

b. Is operated for profit.

c. ~~Has twenty or fewer full-time equivalent employees.~~

d c. Has an annual gross income of less than three million dollars computed as an average of the three preceding fiscal years.

As used in this subsection, "minority person" means an individual who is a Black, Hispanic, Asian or Pacific Islander, ~~or~~ American Indian, or Alaskan native American.

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

Approved May 6, 1991

CHAPTER 104**SCHOOL ACCREDITATION***S.F. 313*

AN ACT relating to the accreditation process for schools and school districts.

Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

Section 1. Section 256.11, subsection 10, Code 1991, is amended to read as follows:

10. The state board shall establish an accreditation process for school districts and nonpublic schools seeking accreditation pursuant to this subsection and subsections 11 and 12. As required in section 256.17, by July 1, 1989, all school districts shall meet standards for accreditation. For the school year commencing July 1, 1989 and school years thereafter, the department of education shall use a two-phase process for the continued accreditation of schools and school districts.

Phase I consists of annual monitoring by the department of education of all accredited schools and school districts for compliance with accreditation standards adopted by the state board of education as provided by section 256.17. The phase I monitoring requires that accredited school districts and schools annually complete accreditation compliance forms adopted by the state board and file them with the department of education. In addition, employees of the department of education shall complete at least ~~one biennial on-site visit each year~~ visits to each accredited school and school district to review the educational programs and the information included in the compliance forms.

Phase II requires the use of an accreditation committee, appointed by the director of the department of education, to conduct an on-site visit to an accredited school or school district if any of the following conditions exist:

a. When either the annual monitoring or the biennial on-site visit of phase I indicates that a school or school district may be is deficient or and fails to be in compliance with accreditation standards.

b. In response to a petition filed with the director requesting such a committee visitation that is signed by twenty percent or more of the registered voters of a school district.

c. In response to a petition filed with the director requesting such a committee visitation that is signed by twenty percent or more of the parents or guardians who have children enrolled in the school or school district.

d. At the direction of the state board of education.

The number and composition of the membership of an accreditation committee shall be determined by the director and may vary due to the specific nature or reason for the visit. In all situations, however, the chairperson and a majority of the committee membership shall be from the instructional and administrative program specialty staff of the department of education. Other members may include instructional and administrative staff from school districts, area education agencies, institutions of higher education, local board members and the general public. An accreditation committee visit to a nonpublic school requires membership on the committee from nonpublic school instructional or administrative staff or board members. A member of a committee shall not have a direct interest in the nonpublic school or school district being visited.

Rules adopted by the state board may include provisions for coordination of the accreditation process under this section with activities of accreditation associations.

Prior to a visit to a school district or nonpublic school, members of the accreditation committee shall have access to all annual accreditation report information filed with the department by that nonpublic school or school district.

After visiting the school district or nonpublic school, the accreditation committee shall determine whether the accreditation standards have been met and shall make a report to the director, together with a recommendation whether the school district or nonpublic school shall remain accredited. The accreditation committee shall report strengths and weaknesses, if any, for each standard and shall advise the school or school district of available resources and technical assistance to further enhance strengths and improve areas of weakness. A school district or nonpublic school may shall be provided with the opportunity to respond to the accreditation committee's report.

Sec. 2. MANDATE REVIEW. The department of education shall review all functions that school districts are required to perform in order to receive state or local funds or to remain accredited. The department shall evaluate the utility of and the need for each of the functions and assign a priority to each function that reflects whether the function must be retained, could be modified or combined with other functions, or is no longer necessary and can be abolished. The department shall submit its review, along with the evaluation of functions and assignment of priorities, in a report to the general assembly by January 1, 1993.

Approved May 6, 1991