

January 16, 1961.
Schools, Libraries, State
Educational Institutions.

House File 19
By HANSON of Lyon, HAKES, FALVEY,
ELDRED and LOSS (Hoxie, et al.).

Passed House, Date.....1-30-61..... Passed Senate, Date.....2-14-61
Vote: Ayes.....98..... Nays.....3..... Vote: Ayes.....46..... Nays.....3.....
Approved.....2-16-61.....

A BILL FOR

An Act to amend chapter two hundred eighty-two (282), Code 1958,
relating to the age of children starting to school.

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

- 1 Section 1. Section two hundred eighty-two point three (282.3),
- 2 Code 1958, is hereby amended by adding, following subsection
- 3 four (4), the following new subsections:
- 4 5. On and after July 1, 1962, the conditions of admission
- 5 to public schools for work in the school year immediately preced-
- 6 ing the first grade and in the first grade shall be as follows:
- 7 "No child under the age of six years on the fifteenth of
- 8 October of the current school year shall be admitted to any
- 9 public school unless the board of directors of the school (or
- 10 the county board of education) shall have adopted and put into
- 11 effect courses of study for the school year immediately pre-
- 12 ceding the first grade, approved by the department of public
- 13 instruction and shall have employed a teacher or teachers for
- 14 this work with standards of training approved by the department
- 15 of public instruction.
- 16 No child shall be admitted to school work for the year
- 17 immediately preceding the first grade unless he is five years of
- 18 age on or before the fifteenth of October of the current school
- 19 year.
- 20 No child shall be admitted to the first grade unless he is

21 six years of age on or before the fifteenth of October of the
22 current school year; except that a child under six years of age
23 who has been admitted to school work for the year immediately
24 preceding the first grade under conditions approved by the
25 department of public instruction, or who has demonstrated the
26 possession of sufficient ability to profit by first-grade work
27 on the basis of tests or other means of evaluation recommended
28 or approved by the department of public instruction, may be
29 admitted to first grade at any time before December 31."

30 6. On and after July 1, 1963, the conditions of admission
31 to public schools for work in the school year immediately preced-
32 ing the first grade and in the first grade shall be as follows:

33 "No child under the age of six years on the fifteenth of
34 September of the current school year shall be admitted to any
35 public school unless the board of directors of the school (or
36 the county board of education) shall have adopted and put into
37 effect courses of study for the school year immediately preceding
38 the first grade, approved by the department of public instruction
39 and shall have employed a teacher or teachers for this work with
40 standards of training approved by the department of public
41 instruction.

42 No child shall be admitted to school work for the year
43 immediately preceding the first grade unless he is five years of
44 age on or before the fifteenth of September of the current school
45 year.

46 No child shall be admitted to the first grade unless he is
47 six years of age on or before the fifteenth of September of
48 the current school year; except that a child under six years
49 of age who has been admitted to school work for the year immedi-

50 ately preceding the first grade under conditions approved by
51 the department of public instruction, or who has demonstrated
52 the possession of sufficient ability to profit by first-grade
53 work on the basis of tests or other means of evaluation recom-
54 mended or approved by the department of public instruction, may
55 be admitted to first grade at any time before December 31."

1 Sec. 2. Section two hundred eighty-two point three (282.3),
2 Code 1958, is further amended by changing subsection five (5)
3 to subsection seven (7), and deleting in line one (1) of said
4 subsection the word and figure "or 4" and inserting in lieu
5 thereof the following: "4, 5, or 6".

EXPLANATION OF HOUSE FILE 19

This bill would bring uniformity of practice to the numerous districts that now have entrance age dates "on the first day of school," or which have varying dates from the beginning of school to November 15. This uniformity would eliminate considerable difficulty for parents who move from one district to another. To facilitate administration, the bill advances the entrance age in two gradual steps, to October 15 in 1962, and to September 15 in 1963 and thereafter. This would allow school districts time to plan for implementing the program.

This bill is in line with research studies which show that children entering school at an older age do much better work on the average due to their greater maturity.

