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Education 4-5, Pass 5-5
Schools 5-15, Pass 5-17

Senate File 695

By STANLEY, CASSIDY
and JEPSEN

Passed Senate, Date 5-12-67 Passed House, Date 5-31-67
Vote: Ayes 43 Nays 0 Vote: Ayes 86 Nays 22
Approved June 10, 1967

A BILL FOR

An Act relating to private college preparatory schools.

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

- 1 Section 1. Section two hundred fifty-seven point twenty-
2 five (257.25), Code 1966, is hereby amended as follows:
3 1. By inserting in line six (6) after the word "shall" the
4 words ", except as otherwise provided in this Act,".
5 2. By adding thereto the following new subsection:
6 "Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this section
7 and as an exception to their requirements, a private high
8 school or private combined junior-senior high school operated
9 for the express purpose of teaching a program designed to
10 qualify its graduates for matriculation at accredited four (4)
11 year or equivalent liberal arts, scientific, or technological
12 colleges or universities shall be placed on a special approved
13 list of college preparatory schools, which list shall signify
14 approval of the school for such express purpose only, provided
15 that:
16 "a. Such school complies with minimum standards established
17 by provisions of the Code other than this section, and adminis-
18 trative rules thereunder, applicable to:
19 "(1) Courses comprising such limited program.
20 "(2) Health requirements for personnel.

21 "(3) Plant facilities.

22 "(4) Other environmental factors affecting such programs.

23 "b. At least eighty (80) percent of those graduating
24 from such school within the annually most recent four (4)
25 calendar years, other than those graduating who are aliens,
26 graduates entering military or alternative civilian service,
27 or graduates deceased or incapacitated before college accep-
28 tance, have been accepted by accredited four (4) year or
29 equivalent liberal arts, scientific, or technological colleges
30 or universities.

31 "Any school claiming to be a private college preparatory
32 school which fails in any year to comply with the requirement
33 of paragraph b of this subsection shall be placed on the
34 special approved list of college preparatory schools proba-
35 tionally if such school complies with the requirements of
36 paragraph a of this subsection, but such probational approval
37 shall not continue for more than four (4) successive years."

1 Sec. 2. Section two hundred ninety-nine point two (299.2),
2 Code 1966, is hereby amended by adding thereto the following
3 new subsection:

4 "Who is attending a private college preparatory school
5 approved or probationally approved under the provisions of
6 section one (1) of this Act."

1 Sec. 3. Section seven hundred thirteen A point three
2 (713A.3), Code 1966, is hereby amended by adding thereto the
3 following new subsection:

4 "Private college preparatory schools approved or proba-
5 tionally approved under the provisions of section one (1) of
6 this Act."

EXPLANATION

Iowa has two private college preparatory schools, St. Katharine' at Davenport and Scattergood at West Branch. With selective admissions, a student-teacher ratio of about six to one, faculty hiring requirements comparable to eastern preparatory schools

and junior colleges, and successful placement of their graduates in colleges which include the most difficult in the country, these schools play a specialized, imaginative, and experimental role in Iowa education. The Schools Standards Act of the 61st General Assembly, section 257.25 of the Code imposes on all public, parochial, and private schools standards which, however appropriate to the public or parochial general purpose school which must teach all comers, are impossible for the purely college preparatory schools. For example, the School Standards Act requires that general mathematics be taught, although this is a survey subject for those not going beyond high school and would have no takers in a college preparatory course; that special educational services such as education for the retarded be provided though these schools would lack such students; that four years of sequential math be taught although a selected student body masters the four years' work in three; that five units of practical arts be taught although most colleges will not accept such credits; and that teachers be certified although these schools must compete for faculty with junior colleges and other preparatory schools who make no such requirements. Failure to meet these and other requirements of the School Standards Act irrelevant to preparation for college denies these schools approval of the state board of public instruction. Yet, local approval is prerequisite to regional accreditation of these schools and often to private grants to them. Such approval or its lack will influence their standing with colleges and their ability to attract and place students.

This bill amends the School Standards Act, section 257.25 of the Code to provide for special approval as a college preparatory school of any private high school or combined junior-senior high school which (1) is operated to teach a college preparatory program (2) complies with applicable school laws other than the School Standards Act and (3) has at least 80 percent of its recent graduates accepted at accredited colleges and universities. Since a new school may not be able to comply with the college matriculation requirement and a small school may inadvertently miss such compliance, provision is made for probational approval for a limited period where such schools otherwise comply with the requirements of the bill.

The bill eliminates any requirement as to teacher certification as to these schools and also makes clear that chapter 713A of the Code relating to advertising and selling courses of instruction is not applicable to such schools.

Probably the best test of the curriculum, instruction and student body at these schools is the readiness on the part of leading colleges and universities to accept their students. Freely chosen by parents, free themselves to choose their students, these schools may experiment with new ideas and what they learn may benefit all schools.

1 Amend Senate File 695 by striking all after the enacting
2 clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:
3 Section 1. Chapter two hundred fifty-seven point twenty-five
4 (257.25), Code 1966, is hereby amended by striking the words,
5 "parochial, and private" from lines seven (7) and eight (8).

Filed
May 31, 1967

Voted non-germane 5-31

GRASSLEY of Butler.