

SENATE FILE **313**
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO SSB 206)

Substituted for H.F. 512 4/11

Passed Senate, Date 3/18/91 (p. 685) Passed House, Date 4/11/91 (p. 1215)

Vote: Ayes 39 Nays 19 Vote: Ayes 98 Nays 0

Approved May 6, 1991 (p. 1704)

*Repassed Senate per S-3410 4/22/91 (p. 1382)
Ayes 44, Nays 0*

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the accreditation process for schools and
2 school districts.

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

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5F313

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6 e. At the direction of the director of the department of
7 education.

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

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

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

30 After visiting the school district or nonpublic school, the
31 accreditation committee shall determine whether the
32 accreditation standards have been met and shall make a report
33 to the director, together with a recommendation whether the
34 school district or nonpublic school shall remain accredited.
35 The accreditation committee shall report strengths and

1 weaknesses, if any, for each standard and shall advise the
2 school or school district of available resources and technical
3 assistance to further enhance strengths and improve areas of
4 weakness. A school district or nonpublic school may shall be
5 provided with the opportunity to respond to the accreditation
6 committee's report.

7 EXPLANATION

8 This bill changes the frequency of on-site visits to
9 accredited schools from annual to biennial visits under phase
10 I of the accreditation process. The phase II conditions which
11 would prompt an on-site visit by an accreditation team have
12 been changed to require that if the biennial monitoring under
13 phase I indicates that a school or school district is
14 deficient, the monitoring must also show that the deficiency
15 causes the school or school district to fail to be in
16 compliance with accreditation standards. The director of the
17 department of education may also prompt an on-site
18 accreditation visit under phase II in the bill. Several other
19 technical changes are made in the language relating to
20 response to the accreditation committee's report.

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SENATE FILE 313

H-3522

- 1 Amend Senate File 313, as passed by the Senate, as
- 2 follows:
- 3 1. Page 2, by striking lines 6 and 7.

By NIELSEN of Linn

H-3522 FILED APRIL 5, 1991

Adopted 4/11/91 (p. 1213)

SENATE FILE 313

H-3526

- 1 Amend Senate File 313, as passed by the Senate, as
- 2 follows:
- 3 1. Page 3, by inserting after line 6 the
- 4 following:
- 5 "Sec. ____ . MANDATE REVIEW. The department of
- 6 education shall review all functions that school
- 7 districts are required to perform in order to receive
- 8 state or local funds or to remain accredited. The
- 9 department shall evaluate the utility of and the need
- 10 for each of the functions and assign a priority to
- 11 each function that reflects whether the function must
- 12 be retained, could be modified or combined with other
- 13 functions, or is no longer necessary and can be
- 14 abolished. The department shall submit its review,
- 15 along with the evaluation of functions and assignment
- 16 of priorities, in a report to the general assembly by
- 17 January 1, 1993."
- 18 2. By renumbering as necessary.

By OLLIE of Clinton

H-3526 FILED APRIL 5, 1991

Adopted 4/11/91 (p. 1214)

HOUSE AMENDMENT TO
SENATE FILE 313

S-3410

1 Amend Senate File 313, as passed by the Senate, as
2 follows:
3 1. Page 2, by striking lines 6 and 7.
4 2. Page 3, by inserting after line 6 the
5 following:
6 "Sec. ____ . MANDATE REVIEW. The department of
7 education shall review all functions that school
8 districts are required to perform in order to receive
9 state or local funds or to remain accredited. The
10 department shall evaluate the utility of and the need
11 for each of the functions and assign a priority to
12 each function that reflects whether the function must
13 be retained, could be modified or combined with other
14 functions, or is no longer necessary and can be
15 abolished. The department shall submit its review,
16 along with the evaluation of functions and assignment
17 of priorities, in a report to the general assembly by
18 January 1, 1993."
19 3. By renumbering, relettering, or redesignating
20 and correcting internal references as necessary.

RECEIVED FROM THE HOUSE

S-3410 FILED APRIL 15, 1991

Senate concurred 4/22/91 (f. 1379)

SZYMONIAK, CH.
DIGLEMAN
TINSMAN

SSB 206
EDUCATION

SENATE/HOUSE FILE 313
BY (PROPOSED DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION BILL)

Passed Senate, Date _____ Passed House, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the accreditation process for schools and
2 school districts.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6 e. At the direction of the director of the department of
7 education.

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

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

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

30 After visiting the school district or nonpublic school, the
31 accreditation committee shall determine whether the
32 accreditation standards have been met and shall make a report
33 to the director, together with a recommendation whether the
34 school district or nonpublic school shall remain accredited.
35 The accreditation committee shall report strengths and

1 weaknesses, if any, for each standard and shall advise the
2 school or school district of available resources and technical
3 assistance to further enhance strengths and improve areas of
4 weakness. A school district or nonpublic school may shall be
5 provided with the opportunity to respond to the accreditation
6 committee's report.

7 EXPLANATION

8 This bill changes the frequency of on-site visits to
9 accredited schools from annual to biennial visits under phase
10 I of the accreditation process. The phase II conditions which
11 would prompt an on-site visit by an accreditation team have
12 been changed to require that if the biennial monitoring under
13 phase I indicates that a school or school district is
14 deficient, the monitoring must also show that the deficiency
15 causes the school or school district to fail to be in
16 compliance with accreditation standards. The director of the
17 department of education may also prompt an on-site
18 accreditation visit under phase II in the bill. Several other
19 technical changes are made in the language relating to
20 response to the accreditation committee's report.

21 BACKGROUND STATEMENT

22 SUBMITTED BY THE AGENCY

23 The accreditation process for school districts is a two-
24 phase process. Phase I requires that schools and school
25 districts annually complete accreditation compliance forms and
26 file them with the department. It also requires employees of
27 the department to make at least one on-site visit each year to
28 each accredited school and school district to review the
29 educational programs and the information included on the
30 compliance forms.

31 When Phase I indicates that a school or school district is
32 deficient in meeting the standards, or if requested by a
33 petition or directed by the state board, Phase II of the
34 accreditation process goes into effect. This requires the use
35 of a multimember accreditation committee which will visit the

1 school or school district to determine whether the standards
2 have been met and make a recommendation regarding whether the
3 district shall remain accredited. They also act as a school
4 improvement team and make recommendations regarding available
5 resources and technical assistance to further enhance
6 strengths and improve weaknesses in the district.

7 The department would like to put more emphasis on Phase II
8 of the process. In order to do this, we propose requiring
9 Phase I on-site visits on a biennial rather than annual basis
10 thus allowing department personnel to focus on the more
11 comprehensive Phase II visits and school improvement
12 activities in schools or school districts where there appear
13 to be problems. We also propose expanding the methods of
14 initiating Phase II visits so that a visit may be initiated by
15 the director of the department of education. Finally, the
16 school district or school receiving a Phase II visit must be
17 provided the opportunity to issue a response to the report.

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SENATE FILE 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.

JOE J. WELSH
President of the Senate

ROBERT C. ARNOULD
Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that this bill originated in the Senate and is known as Senate File 313, Seventy-fourth General Assembly.

JOHN F. DWYER
Secretary of the Senate

Approved May 6, 1991

TERRY E. BRANSTAD
Governor