

FEB 21 1996

EDUCATION

HOUSE FILE

2291

BY BURNETT

Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_

Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing a school community service program.

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

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HF 2291

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 256.37A SCHOOL COMMUNITY SERVICE  
2 PROGRAM.

3 1. It is the policy of the general assembly that Iowa's  
4 education system be structured to provide opportunities for  
5 young people to learn and develop through active participation  
6 in thoughtful organized school service experiences so that  
7 they may become active, caring, and productive citizens who  
8 promote a strong democracy in their communities. To achieve  
9 this objective, each school district is encouraged to examine  
10 the need for student involvement in the community, and to  
11 generate and implement a plan to increase and promote  
12 community involvement if such need is identified. Schools may  
13 enhance what is taught by extending student learning beyond  
14 the classroom by integrating their existing academic  
15 curriculum content with community service opportunities.  
16 Areas of service participation may include, but are not  
17 limited to, the environment, intergenerational relationships,  
18 poverty in the community, and the school as a community.

19 2. The department of education shall request the board of  
20 directors of each public school district and the authorities  
21 in charge of each nonpublic school to review the potential for  
22 increasing student involvement in the community. The boards  
23 and authorities shall comply with the request by completing  
24 this review within one year of the effective date of this Act,  
25 and by reporting the results to the department of education.  
26 The review may include a request to hold local public hearings  
27 to conduct survey research in order to determine support for  
28 school community service programs. The department shall  
29 report to the state board and to the general assembly  
30 regarding the results of the review process, and include a  
31 recommendation regarding both the potential and the funding  
32 needs for school community service development.

33 3. The department of education shall assist public and  
34 nonpublic schools in assessing the need for increased student  
35 involvement at the community level as follows:

1 a. Establish guidelines and provide technical assistance  
2 to schools requesting such support in developing school  
3 community service programs.

4 b. Assist schools in accessing financial and curricular  
5 resources to implement school community service programs and  
6 examining existing resources within the school and community  
7 which provide service learning experiences.

8 c. Provide administrative guidelines for schools desiring  
9 to establish community service as a graduation requirement.

10 Sec. 2. IMPLEMENTATION. Section 25B.2, subsection 3,  
11 shall not apply to this Act.

12 EXPLANATION

13 This bill provides for the establishment of a school  
14 community service program to further the objective that the  
15 education system in Iowa positions students to be productive  
16 citizens involved in their communities.

17 The bill provides that evaluation of the potential for  
18 school community service program development will take place  
19 at the individual public and private school, school board, and  
20 state board of education levels. Each school is encouraged to  
21 review the need for increased student involvement in the  
22 community, and to implement a plan for promoting student  
23 involvement. Public and private school boards and authorities  
24 can comply with this request by completing the review within  
25 one year, and reporting the results to the department of  
26 education. The department shall make a report of the results  
27 of the review process to the state board of education and to  
28 the general assembly, including a recommendation regarding the  
29 potential for school community service program development and  
30 anticipated funding needs.

31 In conducting their review, schools assessing the need for  
32 increased student involvement may obtain the assistance of the  
33 department of education. The department shall establish  
34 guidelines and provide technical assistance to schools in  
35 establishing programs, accessing financial and curricular

1 resources, and instituting community service graduation  
2 requirements. Schools are encouraged to utilize existing  
3 resources in evaluating programs emphasizing community  
4 involvement.

5 This bill may include a state mandate as defined in section  
6 25B.3. This bill makes inapplicable section 25B.2, subsection  
7 3, which would relieve a political subdivision from complying  
8 with a state mandate if funding for the cost of the state  
9 mandate is not provided or specified. Therefore, political  
10 subdivisions are required to comply with any state mandate  
11 included in this bill.

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