

FEB 28 1996

EDUCATION

HOUSE FILE 2388  
BY MASCHER, BELL, WITT, and  
BURNETT

Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act establishing an early reading assistance grant program and  
2 appropriating funds.

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

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HF 2388

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 256.24 EARLY READING ASSISTANCE  
2 GRANT PROGRAM.

3 1. There is appropriated from the general fund of the  
4 state to the department of education for the fiscal year  
5 beginning July 1, 1996, and for each succeeding year, the sum  
6 of two hundred thousand dollars, which shall be allocated to  
7 the following:

8 a. School districts that have elementary schools that  
9 demonstrate the greatest need for early reading assistance  
10 programs to support early intervention efforts to improve the  
11 reading skills of low-achieving six-year-old students. A  
12 program proposal submitted by the board of directors of a  
13 school district shall include, but is not limited to, the  
14 results of a standardized diagnostic survey and assurance that  
15 the proposed early assistance reading program will include  
16 tutoring sessions and provisions for teacher training.

17 b. Area education agencies serving school districts able  
18 to demonstrate to the agencies need for early reading  
19 assistance programs to support early intervention efforts to  
20 improve the reading skills of low-achieving six-year-old  
21 students. An area education agency receiving a grant under  
22 this section shall use the grant funds only to establish  
23 teacher training programs focusing on the theories and  
24 practices of effective reading instruction.

25 2. Grant allocations may be renewed for succeeding fiscal  
26 years. Program proposals submitted by school districts and  
27 area education agencies shall include a contribution from the  
28 district or agency of at least fifty percent of the total  
29 costs of the program, which may include "in-kind" services.  
30 Federal funds may be used to supplement, but not supplant,  
31 state or local funding.

32 3. The state board of education shall adopt rules under  
33 chapter 17A for the administration of this section.

34 EXPLANATION

35 This bill establishes an early reading assistance grant

1 program to support efforts focusing on assisting low-achieving  
2 six-year-old children to learn to read and appropriates  
3 \$200,000 annually for the support of the grant program.

4 The funds are to be allocated to school districts, and area  
5 education agencies serving school districts, that have  
6 elementary schools that demonstrate the greatest need for  
7 early reading assistance programs to support early  
8 intervention efforts to improve the reading skills of low-  
9 achieving six-year-old students. A program proposal submitted  
10 by the board of directors of a school district shall include  
11 at a minimum the results of a standardized diagnostic survey  
12 and assurance that the proposed program will include tutoring  
13 sessions and provisions for teacher training. Area education  
14 agencies awarded grants shall use the funds only to establish  
15 teacher training programs focusing on the theories and  
16 practices of effective reading instruction.

17 Grant allocations may be renewed for additional periods of  
18 time. All program proposals shall include a contribution by  
19 the school district or area education agency of at least 50  
20 percent of the total costs of the program, which may include  
21 "in-kind" services. The state board of education is directed  
22 to adopt rules under chapter 17A for the administration of the  
23 grant program.

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