

FILED FEB 22 1996

SENATE FILE 2288

BY REDFERN

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

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

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to professional education program requirements  
2 for preparation that contributes to the education of children  
3 with disabilities.

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

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S.F. 2288

1 Section 1. Section 256.16, Code 1995, is amended to read  
2 as follows:

3 256.16 SPECIFIC CRITERIA FOR TEACHER PREPARATION AND  
4 CERTAIN EDUCATORS.

5 1. Pursuant to section 256.7, subsection 5, the state  
6 board shall adopt rules requiring all higher education  
7 institutions providing practitioner preparation to include in  
8 the professional education program, preparation that  
9 contributes to education of the-handicapped children with  
10 disabilities and the gifted and talented, which must be  
11 successfully completed before graduation from the practitioner  
12 preparation program. Preparation that contributes to  
13 education of students with disabilities, under this section,  
14 shall include, but is not limited to, the following:

15 a. Instruction in the laws impacting the education of  
16 children with disabilities, including section 504 of the  
17 federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the federal Americans with  
18 Disabilities Act of 1991, and the federal Individuals with  
19 Disabilities Education Act.

20 b. Knowledge about, and teaching methods to respond to,  
21 the learning styles of these children and particular  
22 challenges and barriers affecting the education of children  
23 with disabilities.

24 c. Information about resources available to facilitate the  
25 education of children with disabilities in the regular  
26 classroom, including but not limited to using resources such  
27 as other students, parents, and government and community  
28 agencies.

29 d. Knowledge of assistive technology and other available  
30 accommodations for children with disabilities.

31 2. A person initially applying for a license shall  
32 successfully complete a professional education program  
33 containing the subject matter specified in this section,  
34 before the initial action by the board of educational  
35 examiners takes place.

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EXPLANATION

This bill increases the information that institutions of higher education must include in practitioner preparation programs which contributes to the education of children with disabilities.

Currently, the state board must adopt rules requiring all higher education institutions providing practitioner preparation programs to include preparation that contributes to the education of the handicapped. The bill updates the term "the handicapped" with the term "children with disabilities".

The bill adds the following to the preparation that must be included in the professional education program: (1) instruction in the laws impacting the education of students with disabilities, including section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1991, and the federal Individuals With Disabilities Education Act; (2) knowledge about, and teaching methods to respond to, the learning styles of these children and particular challenges and barriers affecting the education of persons with disabilities; (3) information about resources available to facilitate the education of persons with disabilities in the regular classroom, including but not limited to using other students, parents, and government and community agencies as resources; and (4) knowledge of assistive technology and other available accommodations for persons with disabilities.