

FILED FEB 27 1996

SENATE FILE **2328**
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO SSB 2240)

Passed Senate, Date ^(p.771) 3/13/96 Passed House, Date _____
Vote: Ayes 35 Nays 15 Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the administration and accreditation of area
2 education agency programs and providing for properly related
3 matters.

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

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S.F. 2328

1 Section 1. Section 273.3, subsection 12, Code 1995, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 12. Prepare an annual budget estimating income and
4 expenditures for programs and services as provided in sections
5 273.1 to 273.9 and chapter 256B within the limits of funds
6 provided under section 256B.9 and chapter 257. The board
7 shall give notice of a public hearing on the proposed budget
8 by publication in an official county newspaper in each county
9 in the territory of the area education agency in which the
10 principal place of business of a school district that is a
11 part of the area education agency is located. The notice
12 shall specify the date, which shall be not later than March 1
13 of each year, the time, and the location of the public
14 hearing. The proposed budget as approved by the board shall
15 then be submitted to the state board of education, on forms
16 provided by the department, no later than March 15 preceding
17 the next fiscal year for approval. The state board shall
18 review the proposed budget of each area education agency and
19 shall before April 1, either grant approval or return the
20 budget without approval with comments of the state board
21 included. An unapproved budget shall be resubmitted to the
22 state board for final approval not later than April 15. For
23 the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1999, and each succeeding
24 fiscal year, the state board shall give final approval only to
25 budgets submitted by area education agencies accredited by the
26 state board or that have been given conditional accreditation
27 by the state board.

28 Sec. 2. Section 273.3, Code 1995, is amended by adding the
29 following new subsection:

30 NEW SUBSECTION. 22. Meet annually with the members of the
31 boards of directors of the school districts located within its
32 boundaries if requested by the school district boards.

33 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. 273.10 ACCREDITATION OF AREA
34 EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

35 1. The department of education shall develop, in

1 consultation with the area education agencies, and establish
2 an accreditation process for area education agencies by July
3 1, 1997. At a minimum, the accreditation process shall
4 consist of the following:

5 a. The timely submission by an area education agency of
6 information required by the department on forms provided by
7 the department.

8 b. The use of an accreditation team appointed by the
9 director of the department of education to conduct an
10 evaluation, including an on-site visit of each area education
11 agency. The team shall include, but is not limited to,
12 department staff members, representatives from the school
13 districts served by the area education agency being evaluated,
14 area education agency staff members from area education
15 agencies other than the area education agency that conducts
16 the programs being evaluated for accreditation, and other team
17 members with expertise as deemed appropriate by the director.

18 2. Prior to a visit to an area education agency, the
19 accreditation team shall have access to that area education
20 agency's program audit report filed with the department.
21 After a visit to an area education agency, the accreditation
22 team shall determine whether the accreditation standards for a
23 program have been met and shall make a report to the director
24 and the state board, together with a recommendation as to
25 whether the programs of the area education agency should
26 receive initial accreditation or remain accredited. The
27 accreditation team shall report strengths and weaknesses, if
28 any, for each accreditation standard and shall advise the area
29 education agency of available resources and technical
30 assistance to further enhance the strengths and improve areas
31 of weakness. An area education agency may respond to the
32 accreditation team's report.

33 3. The state board of education shall determine whether a
34 program of an area education agency shall receive initial
35 accreditation or shall remain accredited. Approval of area

1 education agency programs by the state board shall be based
2 upon the recommendation of the director of the department of
3 education after a study of the factual and evaluative evidence
4 on record about each area education agency program in terms of
5 the accreditation standards adopted by the state board.

6 Approval, if granted, shall be for a term of three years.
7 However, the state board may grant conditional approval for a
8 term of less than three years if conditions warrant.

9 4. If the state board of education determines that an area
10 education agency's program does not meet accreditation
11 standards, the director of the department of education, in
12 cooperation with the board of directors of the area education
13 agency, shall establish a remediation plan prescribing the
14 procedures that must be taken to correct deficiencies in
15 meeting the program standards, and shall establish a deadline
16 date for correction of the deficiencies. The remediation plan
17 is subject to the approval of the state board.

18 5. The area education agency program shall remain
19 accredited during the implementation of the remediation plan.
20 The accreditation team shall visit the area education agency
21 and shall determine whether the deficiencies in the standards
22 for the program have been corrected and shall make a report
23 and recommendation to the director and the state board of
24 education. The state board shall review the report and
25 recommendation and shall determine whether the deficiencies in
26 the program have been corrected.

27 6. If the deficiencies in an area education program have
28 not been corrected, the agency board shall take one of the
29 following actions within sixty days from removal of
30 accreditation:

31 a. Merge the deficient program with a program from another
32 accredited area education agency.

33 b. Contract with another area education agency or other
34 public educational institution for purposes of program
35 delivery.

1 The rules developed by the state board of education for the
2 accreditation process shall include provisions for removal of
3 accreditation, including provisions for proper notice to the
4 administrator of the area education agency, each member of the
5 board of directors of the area education agency, and the
6 superintendents and administrators of the schools of the
7 districts served by the area education agency.

8 Sec. 4. NEW SECTION. 273.11 STANDARDS FOR ACCREDITING
9 AREA EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

10 1. The state board of education shall develop standards
11 and rules for the accreditation of area education agencies by
12 July 1, 1997. Standards shall be general in nature, but at a
13 minimum shall identify requirements addressing the services
14 provided by each division, as well as identifying indicators
15 of quality that will permit area education agencies, school
16 districts, the department of education, and the general public
17 to judge accurately the effectiveness of area education agency
18 services.

19 2. Standards developed shall include, but are not limited
20 to, the following:

21 a. Support for school-community planning, including a
22 means of assessing needs, establishing shared direction and
23 implementing program plans and reporting progress.

24 b. Professional development programs that respond to
25 current needs.

26 c. Support for curriculum development, instruction, and
27 assessment for reading, language arts, math and science, using
28 research-based methodologies.

29 d. Special education compliance and support.

30 e. Management services, including financial reporting and
31 purchasing as requested and funded by local districts.

32 f. Support for instructional media services that
33 supplement and support local district media centers and
34 services.

35 g. Support for school technology planning and staff

1 development for implementing instructional technologies.

2 h. A program and services evaluation and reporting system.

3 EXPLANATION

4 This bill directs the department of education to establish
5 an accreditation process for area education agencies and
6 describes the components of the process to be established.

7 The bill also directs the state board of education to develop
8 standards and rules for the accreditation of area education
9 agencies and the bill lists specific standards to be adopted.

10 Beginning with the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1999, the
11 state board is prohibited from giving final approval to
12 budgets submitted by nonaccredited area education agencies.

13 The accreditation process, to be established by July 1,
14 1997, shall utilize an accreditation team appointed by the
15 director of the department. The team is to visit and evaluate
16 each area education agency. The team shall include, but is
17 not limited to, department staff members, representatives from
18 the school districts served by the agency being evaluated,
19 area education agency staff members from area education
20 agencies other than the agency being evaluated, and other team
21 members with expertise deemed appropriate by the director of
22 the department of education.

23 After a visit to an area education agency, the
24 accreditation team shall determine whether the accreditation
25 standards for a program have been met, and report and make
26 recommendations to the director and the state board as to
27 whether the programs should receive initial accreditation or
28 remain accredited. The accreditation team shall report
29 strengths and weaknesses, if any, for each accreditation
30 standard and shall advise the area education agency of
31 available resources and technical assistance to further
32 enhance the strengths and improve areas of weakness. An area
33 education agency may respond to the accreditation team's
34 report.

35 Under the bill, the state board of education determines

1 whether an agency program receives initial accreditation or
2 remains accredited. Approval shall be based on the
3 recommendation of the director of the department after a study
4 of the evidence on record about each area education agency
5 program in terms of the accreditation standards adopted by the
6 state board.

7 Approval, if granted, shall be for a term of three years.
8 However, the state board may grant conditional approval for a
9 term of less than three years if conditions warrant.

10 If a program does not meet accreditation standards, the
11 director of the department, in cooperation with the agency
12 board, shall establish a remediation plan prescribing
13 procedures to correct deficiencies in meeting program
14 standards, and shall establish a deadline date for correction
15 of the deficiencies.

16 The area education agency program shall remain accredited
17 during the remediation period. The accreditation team shall
18 visit the agency and determine whether the deficiencies have
19 been corrected and shall make a report and recommendation to
20 the director and the state board of education.

21 If the deficiencies have not been corrected, the agency
22 board shall, within 60 days from removal of accreditation,
23 merge the deficient program with a program from another
24 accredited area education agency, or contract with another
25 area education agency or other public educational institution
26 for purposes of program delivery.

27 The rules developed by the state board for the
28 accreditation process shall include provisions for removal of
29 accreditation.

30 The state board shall develop general standards and rules
31 for the accreditation of area education agencies by July 1,
32 1997. At a minimum, standards shall identify requirements
33 addressing the services provided by each division, and
34 indicators of quality that will permit area education
35 agencies, school districts, the department of education, and

1 the general public to judge accurately the effectiveness of
2 area education agency services.

3 Standards developed shall include, but are not limited to,
4 the following: (1) support for school-community planning,
5 including a means of assessing needs, establishing shared
6 direction and implementing program plans, and reporting
7 progress; (2) professional development programs that respond
8 to current needs; (3) support for curriculum development,
9 instruction, and assessment for reading, language arts, math
10 and science, using research-based methodologies; (4) special
11 education compliance and support; (5) management services,
12 including financial reporting and purchasing as requested and
13 funded by local districts; (6) support for instructional media
14 services that supplement and support local district media
15 centers and services; (7) support for school technology
16 planning and staff development for implementing instructional
17 technologies; and (8) a program and services evaluation and
18 reporting system.

19 Finally, the bill directs the board of directors of an area
20 education agency to meet annually with the members of the
21 boards of directors of the school districts located within its
22 boundaries if requested by the district boards.

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SSB. 2240

Education
SF/HF 2328

SENATE/HOUSE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED GOVERNOR'S BILL)

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Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
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10/20/99
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3 12. Prepare an annual budget estimating income and
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6 provided under section 256B.9 and chapter 257. The board
7 shall give notice of a public hearing on the proposed budget
8 by publication in an official county newspaper in each county
9 in the territory of the area education agency in which the
10 principal place of business of a school district that is a
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25 budgets submitted by area education agencies accredited by the
26 state board or that have been given conditional accreditation
27 by the state board.

28 Sec. 2. Section 273.3, Code 1995, is amended by adding the
29 following new subsections:

30 NEW SUBSECTION. 22. Meet not less than twice annually
31 with the members of the boards of directors of the school
32 districts located within its boundaries.

33 NEW SUBSECTION. 23. Administer not more than two
34 divisions within the agency, which shall be a division of
35 special education, pursuant to section 273.5, and a division

1 of instructional services, which shall encompass media
2 services, educational services, and management services
3 provided through the agency.

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4 b. Contract with another area education agency or other
5 public educational institution for purposes of program
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30 b. Professional development programs that respond to
31 current needs.

32 c. Support for curriculum development, instruction, and
33 assessment for reading, language arts, math and science, using
34 research-based methodologies.

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1 e. Management services, including financial reporting and
2 purchasing as requested and funded by local districts.

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4 supplement and support local district media centers and
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9 EXPLANATION

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12 describes the components of the process to be established.

13 The bill also directs the state board of education to develop
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15 agencies and the bill lists specific standards to be adopted.

16 In addition, the bill directs the board of directors of an
17 area education agency to administer not more than two
18 divisions within the agency, which shall be a division of
19 special education and a division of instructional services.

20 Beginning with the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1999, the
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17 Approval, if granted, shall be for a term of three years.
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21 director of the department, in cooperation with the agency
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30 education agency to meet not less than twice annually with the
31 members of the boards of directors of the school districts
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