

JAN 15 1998
EDUCATION

HOUSE FILE 2048
BY RICHARDSON

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

A BILL FOR

1 An Act providing for a modified full-year school calendar grant
2 program, and making an appropriation.

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

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HF 2048

1 Section 1. There is appropriated from the general fund of
2 the state to the department of education for the fiscal year
3 beginning July 1, 1998, and ending June 30, 1999, the
4 following amount, or so much thereof as may be necessary, to
5 be used for the purpose designated:

6 For a modified full-year school calendar grant program and
7 study:
8 \$ 3,500,000

9 The funds appropriated shall be utilized by the department
10 to create an incentive program to encourage schools to propose
11 and utilize a modified full-year school calendar. The
12 department shall award grants to 12 schools with varying
13 enrollments that apply to the department by November 1, 1998.
14 Application forms and grant award criteria shall be developed
15 by the department. Applicants shall submit a proposal for a
16 full-year school calendar adhering to the current 180-day
17 requirement in section 279.10, subsection 1, but with a
18 modified calendar incorporating a nine-week on, three-week off
19 schedule. The modified calendar would commence annually on
20 the second Monday in July beginning in 1999, and alternate
21 nine-week on, three-week off intervals until the 180-day
22 requirement has been met. At the point students would
23 remain on break until the next school year commences pursuant
24 to the modified calendar. Calendar proposals submitted by
25 applicants may modify the nine-week on, three-week off
26 schedule according to the particular needs of the school
27 district, but should provide a clear transition to such a
28 schedule. Grants shall be awarded for a three-year duration
29 and shall be used by the schools either to install air
30 conditioning in school buildings or finance other
31 infrastructure needs of the school district related to the
32 modified calendar.

33 In addition to the awarding of grants to applicant schools,
34 the funds appropriated shall be utilized by the department in
35 conjunction with purchases of educational materials for the

1 state, to conduct a study of the schools participating in the
2 grant program during the final year of the three-year program.
3 The study shall include an in-depth cost-benefit analysis of
4 the modified full-year school calendar and its effects on the
5 students, teachers, and community members involved in the
6 program, and include a measurement of academic achievement for
7 students participating in the program compared with students
8 from nonparticipant schools. The department shall submit a
9 report of its findings and recommendations to the general
10 assembly by October 1, 2002.

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EXPLANATION

12 This bill provides for the creation of a three-year grant
13 program involving the awarding of grants by the department of
14 education to 12 schools of varying enrollment sizes throughout
15 the state that submit proposals for the utilization of a
16 modified full-year school calendar. Proposed calendars shall
17 begin annually on the second Monday in July, starting in 1999,
18 and shall provide a clear transition toward the attainment of
19 a nine-week on, three-week off school calendar. The calendar
20 proposal may modify the nine-week on, three-week off period
21 according to the particular needs of the applicant school
22 during the three-year grant program period. Application forms
23 and grant award criteria shall be developed by the department,
24 and shall be received by the department from applicant schools
25 by November 1, 1998. Grants received by successful applicants
26 may be used for the installation of air conditioning equipment
27 in school buildings or for additional infrastructure-related
28 modifications relating to the school's participation in the
29 program. The bill provides for an appropriation of \$3.5
30 million to finance the grants, and to provide for a study
31 during the final year of the three-year program, conducted by
32 the department and postsecondary education institutions in the
33 state, of the impact of the program on students, teachers, and
34 community members involved in the program. The study shall
35 include an in-depth cost-benefit analysis of the modified

1 full-year school calendar and a measurement of student
2 academic progress as compared to students at nonparticipant
3 schools, and shall be submitted to the general assembly by
4 October 1, 2002.

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