

FEB 24 1998
EDUCATION

HOUSE FILE 2415
BY BRAUNS

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

A BILL FOR

1 An Act allowing school districts to enter joint agreements
2 establishing one high school for two school districts and
3 providing an effective date.

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

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HF 2415

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 282.15 JOINT HIGH SCHOOL

2 AGREEMENTS.

3 1. The boards of directors of two school districts may
4 enter an agreement providing for establishment of a joint high
5 school, with a combined enrollment encompassing grades nine
6 through twelve of both school districts under the direction of
7 a joint board of directors.

8 An agreement made pursuant to this section shall include,
9 but not be limited to, all of the following provisions:

10 a. Combining enrollments for grades 9 through 12.

11 b. Sharing in the costs and expenses of instruction as
12 provided in section 282.16.

13 c. Sharing in the cost of facilities as provided in
14 section 282.16.

15 d. Providing for transportation of students.

16 e. Providing for the authority and liability of the
17 affected boards.

18 2. Only entire grades may be combined and any joint high
19 school must combine grades nine through twelve. If an
20 agreement for a joint high school is made, grades nine through
21 twelve in each of the districts participating in the agreement
22 shall be discontinued. A school district which has
23 discontinued grades nine through twelve under this section
24 shall be considered as complying with the requirements of
25 section 275.1 relating to the maintenance of kindergarten and
26 twelve grades by a school district.

27 3. School districts that have entered into a joint high
28 school agreement under this section may, for purposes of
29 implementing the agreement, jointly employ and share the
30 services of any school personnel, or acquire and share the use
31 of classrooms, laboratories, equipment, and facilities.
32 School districts that have entered into a joint high school
33 agreement under this section may jointly construct and own
34 facilities constructed for the purpose of providing school
35 services pursuant to a joint high school agreement.

1 4. A joint high school established pursuant to this
2 section shall be governed by a board of directors composed of
3 members of the boards of directors of the two school districts
4 involved in the agreement. The school district with the
5 larger general population of the two shall appoint three board
6 members to the joint board and the other school district shall
7 appoint two board members to the joint board.

8 5. A joint high school agreement shall be signed by the
9 boards of the districts involved in the agreement not later
10 than February 1 of the school year preceding the school year
11 for which the agreement is to take effect.

12 A joint high school agreement shall be for a duration of
13 not less than twenty years. However, two school districts
14 participating in an agreement may consolidate the districts
15 without regard to the twenty-year duration requirement.

16 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 282.16 FUNDING FOR JOINT HIGH
17 SCHOOLS.

18 1. The boards of directors entering into an agreement
19 under section 282.15 shall provide for sharing the costs and
20 expenses of the joint high school. For purposes of receiving
21 state foundation aid under chapter 257, each school district
22 that is a party to a joint high school agreement shall be
23 considered to have a separate high school located in each
24 district.

25 2. The boards of directors entering into an agreement
26 under section 282.15 shall provide for sharing in the costs of
27 jointly used facilities, including the costs of maintenance of
28 an existing facility or new construction of a facility. Each
29 board may agree to issue bonds to pay for construction of any
30 facility or may utilize any other type of financing available
31 to the districts for the purposes of this subsection.
32 However, costs shall be allocated on a pro rata basis in the
33 proportion that the number of students from each school
34 district attending the joint high school bears to the total
35 number of students attending the joint high school. For a

1 bond proposition to be considered approved by the electorate,
2 the vote in favor of the proposition must be equal to at least
3 sixty percent of the total vote cast in each school district
4 at the separate bond elections.

5 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. This bill takes effect July 1,
6 1999.

7 EXPLANATION

8 This bill allows two school districts to enter an agreement
9 to establish a joint high school for both districts. The high
10 school must be for grades nine through 12, and those grades
11 must be discontinued in each of the school districts.

12 The bill allows the school districts to jointly employ and
13 share services of personnel and to jointly acquire, construct,
14 or share facilities for the joint high school. The school
15 districts may use any funding mechanism currently at their
16 disposal to pay for maintenance or construction of facilities.
17 However, the 60 percent majority required for general
18 obligation bonds is a requirement that must be met separately
19 by each school district in order for a bond issuance to be
20 considered approved.

21 The bill provides that a joint high school would be
22 governed by its own board of directors appointed from the
23 boards of the two school districts. The district with the
24 larger general population would appoint three of its members
25 to the joint board and the other district would appoint two
26 members.

27 For purposes of receiving state foundation aid, each school
28 district involved in a joint high school agreement would be
29 considered to have a separate high school located in its
30 district.

31 The bill requires that a joint high school agreement have a
32 duration of 20 years unless the two school districts involved
33 in the agreement consolidate during the duration of the
34 agreement.

35 The bill takes effect July 1, 1999.

HOUSE FILE 2416

H-8121

1 Amend House File 2416 as follows:
2 1. By striking everything after the enacting
3 clause and inserting the following:
4 "Section 1. Section 405A.3, subsection 1,
5 paragraph b, Code 1997, is amended to read as follows:
6 b. The ratio of the population of each city to the
7 total population of all cities in the state,
8 multiplied by twenty-seven million three hundred
9 thousand dollars. Of the moneys allocated pursuant to
10 the paragraph, ten million six hundred thousand
11 dollars represents a portion of the state profits from
12 the sale of alcoholic liquors and the portion of the
13 allocation which represents state alcoholic liquor
14 profits shall be remitted by each city to the
15 appropriate county board of health which shall
16 distribute the money in accordance with the needs
17 identified through a substance abuse needs assessment
18 for the treatment, rehabilitation, and education for
19 persons who are substance abusers or at risk for
20 substance abuse in this state. The population of each
21 city shall be determined by the latest available
22 federal census. A city may have one special federal
23 census taken each decade, and the population figure
24 obtained shall be used in apportioning amounts under
25 this subsection beginning the calendar year following
26 the year in which the special census is certified to
27 the secretary of state. If a city has annexed
28 territory since the last regular or special federal
29 census, the mayor and council shall certify to the
30 treasurer of state the actual population of the
31 annexed territory as determined by the last certified
32 federal census of the territory and the apportionment
33 of funds under this subsection shall be based upon the
34 population of the city as modified by the
35 certification of the population of the annexed
36 territory until the next regular or special federal
37 census enumeration."

By HEATON of Henry

H-8121 FILED FEBRUARY 25, 1998