

MAR 5 1997
EDUCATION

HOUSE FILE 434
BY WISE

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

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to competitive demonstration grants for school
2 districts and establishing an alternative education program
3 for certain at-risk students and making an appropriation.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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HF 434

1 Section 1. Section 279.51, subsection 1, unnumbered
2 paragraph 1, Code 1997, is amended to read as follows:

3 There is appropriated from the general fund of the state to
4 the department of education for the fiscal year beginning July
5 1, ~~1996~~ 1997, and each succeeding fiscal year, the sum of
6 fourteen seventeen million five-hundred twenty thousand
7 dollars.

8 Sec. 2. Section 279.51, subsection 1, Code 1997, is
9 amended by adding the following new paragraph:

10 NEW PARAGRAPH. g. For the fiscal year beginning July 1,
11 1997, and for each fiscal year thereafter, two million five
12 hundred thousand dollars of the funds appropriated shall be
13 allocated for the alternative education program established in
14 subsection 4A.

15 Sec. 3. Section 279.51, Code 1997, is amended by adding
16 the following new subsection:

17 NEW SUBSECTION. 4A. a. An alternative education program
18 is established to provide four-year competitive demonstration
19 grants to school districts that demonstrate the greatest need
20 for, and ability to provide for, the establishment of
21 innovative alternative education programs for habitually
22 disruptive, absent or truant, at-risk students. The
23 department of education, in consultation with the department
24 of human services, the Iowa department of public health, the
25 division of criminal and juvenile justice planning of the
26 department of human rights, and institutions of higher
27 learning with applicable programs, shall develop a four-year
28 demonstration grant program that commences in the fiscal year
29 beginning July 1, 1997.

30 b. The department shall provide grants to individual
31 public schools or to a consortia of public schools within a
32 school district to establish innovative alternative education
33 programs for youths age twelve and older, who meet the
34 criteria listed in paragraph "a". The programs shall be
35 established in conjunction with local agencies and community

1 organizations, based upon program plans filed by the board of
2 directors of the school district. The department shall
3 provide grants to establish model programs in one each at
4 least, of the following size categories:

5 (1) A school district with an enrollment of less than one
6 thousand two hundred.

7 (2) A school district with an enrollment of one thousand
8 two hundred to four thousand nine hundred ninety-nine.

9 (3) A school district with an enrollment of at least five
10 thousand.

11 c. Priority shall be weighted toward need within a school
12 or school district and shall be given to schools whose plans
13 indicate a high degree of active participation by community-
14 based youth organizations and agencies, and to schools with
15 student populations characterized by high rates of the
16 following: students expelled or suspended; school dropout and
17 absenteeism; juvenile court involvement; family conflict; and
18 child and youth mental health, substance abuse, and other
19 health problems. The department shall develop an evaluation
20 process for the approved projects designed to investigate
21 program effectiveness in reducing these rates and restoring
22 the student to the regular education program. In developing
23 the evaluation process, the department shall consult with the
24 department of human services, the Iowa department of public
25 health, the division of criminal and juvenile justice planning
26 of the department of human rights, and institutions of higher
27 learning with applicable programs.

28 d. A plan submitted pursuant to this subsection shall
29 address the academic curriculum and provide for, at a minimum,
30 basic academic skills development and social remediation
31 necessary to restore the student to the regular education
32 program; self-discipline and responsibility; family
33 interaction opportunities; personal skills development; and
34 shall include a program evaluation component.

35 e. Grants for the program shall not be used to construct a

1 new facility or to renovate an existing structure.
2 f. A plan submitted pursuant to this subsection shall
3 require a contribution of at least twenty percent of the total
4 costs of the program, which can include "in-kind" services.
5 The budget for a proposed program shall not exceed two hundred
6 thousand dollars per year.

7 EXPLANATION

8 This bill appropriates an additional \$2.5 million to the
9 standing appropriation to the department of education for
10 programs for at-risk children under Code section 279.51, and
11 allocates the moneys for an alternative education program
12 established under the bill for habitually disruptive, absent
13 or truant, at-risk students.

14 The alternative education program is established to provide
15 four-year competitive demonstration grants to school
16 districts, either for individual schools or a consortia of
17 schools within a district to establish innovative alternative
18 education programs for youths age twelve and older, in
19 conjunction with local agencies and community organizations.

20 The department is directed to provide grants to establish
21 model programs in school districts in at least one each of the
22 following size categories: less than 1,200; 1,200 to 4,999;
23 5,000 or more.

24 The department is also directed to coordinate an evaluation
25 process to investigate program effectiveness in restoring
26 students to the regular education program.

27 Program plans shall include a contribution of at least 20
28 percent of the total costs of the program, which can include
29 "in-kind" services. The budget for a proposed program shall
30 not exceed \$200,000 per year.

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