

MAR 6 1997
APPROPRIATIONS

HOUSE FILE
BY WISE

482

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

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to school vertical infrastructure funding.
2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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HF 482

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 257D.1 TITLE.

2 This chapter may be cited as the "School Vertical
3 Infrastructure Act".

4 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 257D.2 SCHOOL VERTICAL
5 INFRASTRUCTURE FUND.

6 1. A school vertical infrastructure fund is created within
7 the state treasury under the control of the department of
8 education. The fund shall consist of fifty million dollars
9 appropriated from the general fund of the state to the
10 department for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1997, and
11 each subsequent fiscal year and any other moneys available to
12 and obtained or accepted by the department from the federal
13 government or private sources for placement in the fund. The
14 assets of the fund shall be used by the department for
15 carrying out the purposes of sections 257D.3 and 257D.4.

16 2. Payments of interest, recaptures of grants, or
17 repayments of moneys granted shall be deposited in the fund.
18 Section 8.33 does not apply to any moneys in the fund.

19 3. The fund is subject to an annual audit by the auditor
20 of state. Moneys in the fund, which may be subject to
21 warrants written by the director of revenue and finance, shall
22 be drawn upon the written requisition of the director of the
23 department of education or an authorized representative of the
24 director.

25 4. As used in this chapter, "vertical infrastructure" has
26 the same meaning as in section 8.57, subsection 5, except that
27 "vertical infrastructure" shall not include recreational
28 trails. A matching grant shall only be awarded for specific
29 vertical infrastructure projects certified to the department
30 in the application.

31 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. 257D.3 MATCHING SCHOOL VERTICAL
32 INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROGRAM.

33 1. The department of education shall establish a matching
34 school vertical infrastructure grant program. The program
35 shall make matching grants to eligible school districts for

1 vertical infrastructure projects within the school district.
2 The total amount of grants shall not exceed thirty million
3 dollars from the fund in each fiscal year. The department
4 shall allocate fifteen million dollars for grants to be
5 distributed October 1 and fifteen million dollars for grants
6 distributed on April 1 of each year. The director of the
7 department shall recommend rules to the state board of
8 education regarding the administration of the program. The
9 board shall adopt rules which include at least all of the
10 following:

11 a. That a school district certify that the district is
12 seeking a bond issue under chapter 298 to finance vertical
13 infrastructure projects in the district and transmit to the
14 department a description of the projects to be funded through
15 the bond issue.

16 b. That the school district apply for the grant not later
17 than five days following action by the board of directors of
18 the district to adopt the bond resolution and place the bond
19 issue before the voters of the district.

20 c. Criteria for the content of the application.

21 d. Procedures for the review of each application.

22 2. The department shall review each application and
23 approve, modify, or reject the application and notify the
24 district within ten days of the date the application is
25 received by the department. Matching grants are contingent on
26 the approval of the bond issue by the voters of the school
27 district. Matching grants which are not made due to the
28 failure of the school district to approve a bond issue shall
29 remain in the fund and be available for award to another
30 district.

31 3. The department shall award matching grants for vertical
32 infrastructure projects in accordance with the following
33 priorities:

34 a. Projects that reduce or eliminate known life safety
35 violations shall receive the highest priority.

1 b. Projects regarding a planned reorganization of a
2 district which involve the construction of new or significant
3 renovation of existing vertical infrastructure in the
4 district.

5 c. Cooperative education projects involving the
6 acquisition of vertical infrastructure, including joint
7 facilities pursuant to chapter 28E. In evaluating cooperative
8 projects, preference shall be given in the following order to
9 projects involving joint libraries and media centers;
10 recreational facilities; congregate meal and elder care
11 recreation facilities adjacent to or part of a school building
12 utilizing school kitchen or recreational facilities; Iowa
13 communication network facilities; and other facilities jointly
14 operated and maintained by cities, counties, school
15 corporations, or the state board of regents under chapter 28E.

16 d. Projects connecting schools to the Iowa communications
17 network.

18 4. The maximum matching grant awarded to any school
19 district shall be five million dollars. A school district may
20 receive only one matching grant in any five-year period.

21 Sec. 4. NEW SECTION. 257D.4 MAINTENANCE ALLOCATION.

22 1. Each fiscal year, the department shall distribute
23 twenty million dollars of the moneys in the fund to school
24 districts in the amount of thirty-eight dollars per pupil in
25 actual enrollment in the district as certified pursuant to
26 section 257.6. Moneys distributed to school districts under
27 this section shall only be used for repair and maintenance of
28 vertical infrastructure in the district.

29 2. The director of the department shall recommend rules to
30 the state board of education regarding administration of this
31 section. The rules shall provide for coordination with the
32 department of management regarding the timing and distribution
33 of moneys under this section.

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EXPLANATION

35 This bill provides for the creation of the school vertical

1 vertical infrastructure projects within the school district.
2 The total amount of grants shall not exceed thirty million
3 dollars from the fund in each fiscal year. The department
4 shall allocate fifteen million dollars for grants to be
5 distributed October 1 and fifteen million dollars for grants
6 distributed on April 1 of each year. The director of the
7 department shall recommend rules to the state board of
8 education regarding the administration of the program. The
9 board shall adopt rules which include at least all of the
10 following:

11 a. That a school district certify that the district is
12 seeking a bond issue under chapter 298 to finance vertical
13 infrastructure projects in the district and transmit to the
14 department a description of the projects to be funded through
15 the bond issue.

16 b. That the school district apply for the grant not later
17 than five days following action by the board of directors of
18 the district to adopt the bond resolution and place the bond
19 issue before the voters of the district.

20 c. Criteria for the content of the application.

21 d. Procedures for the review of each application.

22 2. The department shall review each application and
23 approve, modify, or reject the application and notify the
24 district within ten days of the date the application is
25 received by the department. Matching grants are contingent on
26 the approval of the bond issue by the voters of the school
27 district. Matching grants which are not made due to the
28 failure of the school district to approve a bond issue shall
29 remain in the fund and be available for award to another
30 district.

31 3. The department shall award matching grants for vertical
32 infrastructure projects in accordance with the following
33 priorities:

34 a. Projects that reduce or eliminate known life safety
35 violations shall receive the highest priority.

1 vertical infrastructure in school districts. The money shall
2 be distributed in the amount of \$38 per pupil times the number
3 of pupils in the district as certified to the department by
4 October 1 of each year. The department shall cooperate with
5 the department of management in the timing of the distribution
6 of these funds.

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