

MAR 11 1997

EDUCATION

HOUSE FILE 537

BY CARROLL

Passed House, Date _____

Passed Senate, Date _____

Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____

Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____

Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to and making an appropriation to the department
2 for the blind and the department of education to establish
3 statewide access to newsline for the blind.

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

- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20
- 21
- 22
- 23
- 24
- 25

HF 537

1 Section 1. DEPARTMENT FOR THE BLIND. There is
2 appropriated from the general fund of the state to the
3 department for the blind for the fiscal year beginning July 1,
4 1997, and ending June 30, 1998, the following amount, or so
5 much thereof as is necessary, to be used for the purpose
6 designated:

7 For the establishment of statewide access to newslines for
8 the blind:

9 \$ 50,000

10 Funds appropriated in this section shall be utilized to
11 assist the department in matching federal funding for the
12 initiation and maintenance of statewide access via the Iowa
13 communications network to the newslines for the blind, a
14 universal system of providing newspapers over the telephone,
15 furnished by the national federation of the blind. This
16 appropriation, together with an appropriation to the
17 department of education, shall permit access to blind and
18 visually impaired individuals throughout the state to the
19 newslines service. The service shall be limited to persons
20 residing in the state who are eligible for the books for the
21 blind and physically handicapped program of the library of
22 Congress.

23 Sec. 2. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION. There is appropriated
24 from the general fund of the state to the department of
25 education for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1997, and
26 ending June 30, 1998, the following amount, or so much thereof
27 as is necessary, to be used for the purpose designated:

28 For the establishment of statewide access via the Iowa
29 communications network to newslines for the blind:

30 \$ 300,000

31 Funds appropriated in this section shall be utilized to
32 establish statewide Iowa communications network access to the
33 newslines for the blind, a universal system of providing
34 newspapers over the telephone, furnished by the national
35 federation of the blind. The department shall provide access

1 to newslines for the blind to blind and visually impaired
2 persons capable of accessing the Iowa communications network,
3 without cost to the user, and shall coordinate with the Iowa
4 department for the blind to link the Iowa communications
5 network to the office of the department for the blind in Des
6 Moines. The department shall provide assurance to the
7 department for the blind that only blind and visually impaired
8 persons shall have use of the newslines service. The service
9 shall be limited to persons residing in the state who are
10 eligible for the books for the blind and physically
11 handicapped program of the library of Congress.

12

EXPLANATION

13 This bill provides appropriations to the department for the
14 blind and the department of education to make access to the
15 national federation of the blind's newslines services available
16 to blind and visually impaired residents of the state. The
17 newslines service provides for the reading of newspapers over
18 the telephone to blind and visually impaired individuals. The
19 department of the blind receives an appropriation of \$50,000
20 for use in matching federal funds to receive the services.
21 The department of education receives an appropriation of
22 \$300,000 to establish the link with the newslines services at
23 the department for the blind's headquarters in Des Moines, and
24 furnish the service at no cost to users. Utilization of the
25 service would be limited to individuals eligible for the books
26 for the blind and physically handicapped program of the
27 library of Congress.

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35