

FILED FEB 16 1998

EDUCATION

SENATE FILE 2216

BY SZYMONIAK

Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_

Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act providing for an Iowa reading initiative program and  
2 making an appropriation.

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

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S.F. 2216

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 280.26 IOWA READING INITIATIVE  
2 PROGRAM.

3 1. There shall be established within the department of  
4 education an Iowa reading initiative program. The intent of  
5 the program is to provide the necessary resources to support  
6 additional small group reading instruction to third grade  
7 students who are determined not to be reading at a rate and  
8 comprehension level appropriate to the first semester of the  
9 third grade. The goal of the program is the acceleration of  
10 the reading rate and comprehension level of students receiving  
11 additional small group instruction, so that by the end of the  
12 first semester of fourth grade those students involved in the  
13 program will have made substantial progress toward, or be  
14 reading at, a reading level appropriate to the first semester  
15 of the fourth grade.

16 2. Program participants shall be identified based on the  
17 results of a reading assessment test developed and  
18 administered by the department of education and given to each  
19 third grade student enrolled in the public school system  
20 across the state during the month of September upon entering  
21 the third grade. Those students scoring one semester or more  
22 below the reading rate and comprehension level determined  
23 appropriate for the first semester of the third grade shall  
24 receive an additional forty minutes of small group reading  
25 instruction during each school day. A small group receiving  
26 additional reading instruction shall consist of between three  
27 to five students per teacher. To supplement the additional  
28 reading instruction time during the school day, parents of a  
29 child participating in the program shall agree to commit to  
30 spending a minimum of twenty minutes each night, during the  
31 school week, reading to or with their child.

32 3. The department shall develop a sample curriculum for  
33 the additional reading instruction program, incorporating  
34 strategies practiced and proven to be effective in the reading  
35 recovery and the early literacy initiative programs at Ohio

1 state university. Students in the program shall undergo  
2 regular assessment and receive reading assignments which  
3 increase in difficulty as the student progresses through the  
4 program. Overall progress for each student shall be assessed  
5 every nine weeks utilizing an assessment tool or mechanism  
6 developed by the department. Student achievement of more than  
7 nine weeks of progress in reading rate and comprehension level  
8 over a nine week period of small group additional reading  
9 instruction, as determined by the small group instructor, and  
10 more than one semester of growth in reading rate and  
11 comprehension during the course of a semester are considered  
12 indicators of program success. Students involved in the  
13 program who are determined not to have achieved a reading rate  
14 and comprehension level appropriate to the first semester of  
15 the fourth grade by the time the child has completed the  
16 program shall be evaluated for additional special needs  
17 testing.

18 4. Each area education agency shall receive, out of the  
19 funds appropriated in section 280.27, funding to employ or  
20 train as specialists two reading trainers to train third grade  
21 teachers to provide additional small group reading  
22 instruction.

23 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 280.27 IOWA READING INITIATIVE  
24 PROGRAM -- APPROPRIATION.

25 1. There is appropriated annually from the general fund of  
26 the state to the department of education the sum of seventeen  
27 million dollars to establish, maintain, and administer an Iowa  
28 reading initiative program pursuant to section 280.26.

29 2. Moneys appropriated in subsection 1 shall be allocated  
30 to area education agencies to employ two small group reading  
31 instruction trainers per area education agency, and to school  
32 districts throughout the state on a per pupil basis. The  
33 amount of moneys allocated to school districts shall be in the  
34 proportion that the basic enrollment of a district bears to  
35 the sum of the basic enrollments of all school districts in

1 the state for the budget year.

2 3. Notwithstanding section 8.33, unencumbered and  
3 unobligated funds appropriated pursuant to this section which  
4 are available at the close of the fiscal year shall not revert  
5 to the general fund of the state but shall remain available  
6 for expenditure for the purposes designated in this section  
7 during the succeeding fiscal year.

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EXPLANATION

9 This bill provides for the establishment of an Iowa reading  
10 initiative program. The intent of the program shall be to  
11 provide additional small group reading instruction to third  
12 grade students who are determined not to be reading at a rate  
13 and comprehension level appropriate to their grade level. The  
14 goal of the program shall be the acceleration of the reading  
15 rate and comprehension level of students receiving additional  
16 small group instruction, so that by the end of the first  
17 semester of fourth grade those students involved in the  
18 program will have made substantial progress toward, or be  
19 reading at, a reading level appropriate to their grade level.

20 Participants in the program shall be identified based on  
21 the results of a reading assessment test administered to each  
22 third grade student enrolled in the public school system  
23 across the state during the month of September upon entering  
24 the third grade. A student scoring one semester or more below  
25 the reading rate and comprehension level determined  
26 appropriate shall receive an additional 40 minutes of reading  
27 instruction each school day in a small group of approximately  
28 three to five students per teacher. Parents would agree to  
29 supplement the additional reading instruction by spending a  
30 minimum of 20 minutes each school night reading to or with  
31 their child.

32 The department of education shall develop a sample  
33 curriculum for the additional reading instruction program,  
34 incorporating strategies practiced and proven to be effective  
35 in the reading recovery and early literacy initiative programs

1 at Ohio state university. Student progress shall be assessed  
2 on a regular basis, and assignments shall increase in  
3 difficulty as the student advances through the program.  
4 Overall progress for each student shall be assessed every nine  
5 weeks utilizing an assessment tool or mechanism to be  
6 developed by the department. Student achievement of more than  
7 nine weeks of progress in reading rate and comprehension level  
8 over a nine week period of small group additional reading  
9 instruction, as determined by the small group instructor, and  
10 more than one semester of growth in reading rate and  
11 comprehension during the course of a semester are considered  
12 indicators of success. Students involved in the program who  
13 are determined not to have achieved a reading rate and  
14 comprehension level appropriate to the first semester of the  
15 fourth grade by the time the child has completed the program  
16 shall be evaluated for additional special needs testing.

17 The bill provides for an appropriation from the general  
18 fund to the department of education the sum of \$17 million to  
19 establish and administer the program. Each area education  
20 agency shall receive funding to employ two reading trainers to  
21 train third grade teachers to provide additional small group  
22 reading instruction. School districts shall receive funding  
23 on a per pupil basis, in the proportion that the basic  
24 enrollment of a district bears to the sum of the basic  
25 enrollments of all school districts in the state for the  
26 budget year. The bill provides that unencumbered and  
27 unobligated funds appropriated pursuant to this section which  
28 are available at the close of the fiscal year shall not revert  
29 to the general fund but shall remain available for expenditure  
30 for the purposes designated during the succeeding fiscal year.

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