

SENATE FILE 2299

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

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the establishment of an early childhood and
2 elementary education improvement program and making an
3 appropriation.

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

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S.F. 2299

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 256D.1 LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND
2 INTENT.

3 It is the intent of the general assembly to provide
4 assistance to enable public school districts to work with
5 local community collaborative efforts to reduce gaps in
6 service and eliminate duplication in meeting the needs of
7 children from birth through grade three. These needs, at a
8 minimum, include child development, child care, children's
9 health and safety, and parent education needs. Therefore, the
10 general assembly finds that it is in the best interest of the
11 state to encourage and fund early childhood and elementary
12 education programs focused on children from birth through
13 grade three in the school districts. The goal of these
14 programs is to improve student achievement in the basic
15 educational subject matters, such as reading, language arts,
16 and mathematics, and to accomplish proficiency in those
17 subjects by grade four. Toward that goal, it is the intent of
18 this chapter to establish and fund an early childhood and
19 elementary education improvement program.

20 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 256D.2 EARLY CHILDHOOD AND
21 ELEMENTARY EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM APPROPRIATION.

22 1. There is appropriated from the general fund of the
23 state to the department of education for the fiscal year
24 beginning July 1, 1998, and for each succeeding fiscal year,
25 the sum of thirty million dollars for the early childhood and
26 elementary education improvement program.

27 2. For each fiscal year for which moneys are appropriated
28 in subsection 1, the amount of moneys allocated to school
29 districts shall be in the proportion that the basic enrollment
30 of a district bears to the sum of the basic enrollments of all
31 school districts in the state for the budget year. However, a
32 district shall not receive less than twenty-five thousand
33 dollars in a fiscal year. The Iowa braille and sight saving
34 school, the Iowa school for the deaf, and the Price laboratory
35 school at the university of northern Iowa shall annually

1 certify their basic enrollments to the department of education
2 by October 1.

3 3. For each year for which an appropriation is made to the
4 early childhood and elementary education improvement program,
5 the department of education shall notify the department of
6 revenue and finance of the amount to be paid to each school
7 district based upon the distribution plan set forth for the
8 appropriation made pursuant to this section. The allocation
9 to each school district under this section shall be made in
10 one payment on or about October 15 of the fiscal year for
11 which the appropriation is made, taking into consideration the
12 relative budget and cash position of the state resources.

13 4. Moneys received under this section shall not be
14 commingled with state aid payments made under section 257.16
15 to a school district and shall be accounted for by the school
16 district separately from state aid payments.

17 5. Moneys received under this section shall supplement and
18 not supplant existing moneys or moneys otherwise received and
19 used by the school district for similar early childhood or
20 elementary education purposes.

21 6. Payments made to school districts under this section
22 are miscellaneous income for purposes of chapter 257 and are
23 considered encumbered. Each school district shall maintain a
24 separate listing within its budget for payments received and
25 expenditures made pursuant to this section.

26 7. Moneys received under this section shall not be used
27 for payment of any collective bargaining agreement or
28 arbitrator's decision negotiated or awarded under chapter 20.

29 8. For purposes of this chapter, "school district" means a
30 public school district, the Iowa braille and sight saving
31 school, the Iowa school for the deaf, and the Price laboratory
32 school at the university of northern Iowa.

33 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. 256D.3 EARLY CHILDHOOD AND
34 ELEMENTARY EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM -- REPORTS.

35 1. By July 1, 1999, and by July 1 of each succeeding year,

1 each school district shall submit to the department of
2 education an annual report that describes the ways in which
3 the school district used the moneys received under this
4 chapter for early childhood and elementary education
5 improvement purposes.

6 2. By July 1, 1999, and by July 1 of each succeeding year,
7 the Iowa braille and sight-saving school, the Iowa school for
8 the deaf, and the Price laboratory school at the university of
9 northern Iowa, shall each submit to the state board of regents
10 and department of education an annual report that describes
11 the ways in which the moneys received under this chapter for
12 early childhood and elementary education improvement purposes
13 were used.

14 3. The department shall submit, to the chairpersons and
15 ranking members of the house and senate education committees
16 by January 1, 2000, a report summarizing the ways in which the
17 school districts are making use of the moneys received under
18 this chapter. The department shall make the report available
19 to school districts upon request.

20 Sec. 4. NEW SECTION. 256D.4 EARLY CHILDHOOD AND
21 ELEMENTARY EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM EXPENDITURES.

22 1. School districts shall expend funds received pursuant
23 to section 256D.2 to support education practices, programs, or
24 assistance for children from birth through grade three that
25 include, but are not limited to, the following: preschool
26 services provided on a voluntary basis to four-year-old
27 children deemed at risk of not succeeding in elementary
28 school, in accordance with criteria established for the
29 definition of at-risk children by the child development
30 coordinating council; parent education programs provided on a
31 voluntary basis to parents of children from birth through
32 grade three; children's services relating to child development
33 and school readiness, child care, and children's health and
34 safety; all-day, everyday, kindergarten; reducing adult-to-
35 student ratios through the hiring of teachers and adult

1 teaching assistants; volunteer coordinator programs;
2 implementation of instructional programs designed to improve
3 student achievement in the areas of reading, language arts,
4 and mathematics; parental involvement programs; and
5 contributions toward implementation of an extended school day
6 or year program.

7 2. Funds expended in accordance with this chapter may be
8 used to support education practices, programs, or assistance
9 for children from birth through grade three, as provided in
10 this section, that may be located in buildings other than a
11 building owned or leased by the school district.

12 3. School districts expending program funds to support
13 education practices, programs, or assistance for children from
14 birth through age four shall consult with the departments of
15 public health and human services in developing and
16 implementing the practices, programs, or assistance.

17 EXPLANATION

18 This bill establishes an early childhood and elementary
19 education improvement program, focused on children from birth
20 through grade three, with an annual appropriation of \$30
21 million from the state general fund to the department of
22 education.

23 The bill includes legislative intent to provide assistance
24 to enable public school districts to work with local community
25 collaborative efforts to reduce gaps in service and eliminate
26 duplication in meeting the needs of children from birth
27 through grade three. The general assembly finds, according to
28 the bill, that it is in the best interest of the state to
29 encourage and fund early childhood and elementary education
30 programs in public school districts. The bill defines the
31 goals of an eligible program and lists the components of early
32 childhood and elementary education practices and programs for
33 which state funding may be expended.

34 The bill provides for a per pupil annual distribution of
35 the funds appropriated, but stipulates that a school district

1 shall receive no less than \$25,000. The bill defines the term
2 "school district" to include public school districts, the Iowa
3 braille and sight saving school, the Iowa school for the deaf,
4 and the Price laboratory school at the university of northern
5 Iowa.

6 The bill requires that school districts report to the
7 appropriate state agencies ways in which the moneys received
8 under the program were spent by the school districts. The
9 bill also requires the department of education to submit to
10 the chairpersons and ranking members of the house and senate
11 committees on education reports summarizing the ways school
12 districts are using program moneys.

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