

SENATE FILE 263
BY CONNOLLY

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

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to four-year competitive demonstration grants for
2 certain school districts for the establishment of alternative
3 education programs for certain at-risk students and making an
4 appropriation.

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

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S.F. 263

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 using additional allowable growth
20 for programs for returning dropouts and dropout prevention
21 under section 257.41, and that demonstrate the greatest need
22 for, and ability to provide for, the establishment of
23 innovative alternative education programs for habitually
24 disruptive, absent or truant, at-risk students. The
25 department of education, in consultation with the department
26 of human services, the Iowa department of public health, the
27 division of criminal and juvenile justice planning of the
28 department of human rights, and institutions of higher
29 learning with applicable programs, shall develop a four-year
30 demonstration grant program that commences in the fiscal year
31 beginning July 1, 1997.

32 b. The department shall provide grants to individual
33 public schools or to a consortia of public schools within a
34 school district to establish innovative alternative education
35 programs for youths age twelve and older, who meet the

1 criteria listed in paragraph "a". The programs shall be
2 established in conjunction with local agencies and community
3 organizations, based upon program plans filed by the board of
4 directors of the school district. The department shall
5 provide grants to establish model programs in one each at
6 least, of the following size categories:

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

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

11 (3) A school district with an enrollment of at least five
12 thousand.

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

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

1 shall include a program evaluation component.

2 e. Grants for the program shall not be used to construct a
3 new facility or to renovate an existing structure.

4 f. A plan submitted pursuant to this subsection shall
5 require a contribution of at least twenty percent of the total
6 costs of the program, which can include "in-kind" services.
7 The budget for a proposed program shall not exceed two hundred
8 thousand dollars per year. Funding provided under this
9 section shall supplement and not supplant funding received as
10 additional allowable growth under section 257.41.

11 EXPLANATION

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

18 The alternative education program is established to provide
19 four-year competitive demonstration grants to school districts
20 already using additional allowable growth for dropout
21 programs, either for individual schools or a consortia of
22 schools within a district, to establish innovative alternative
23 education programs for youths age twelve and older, in
24 conjunction with local agencies and community organizations.

25 The department is directed to provide grants to establish
26 model programs in school districts in at least one each of the
27 following size categories: less than 1,200; 1,200 to 4,999;
28 5,000 or more.

29 The department is also directed to coordinate an evaluation
30 process to investigate program effectiveness in restoring
31 students to the regular education program.

32 Program plans shall include a contribution of at least 20
33 percent of the total costs of the program, which can include
34 "in-kind" services. The budget for a proposed program shall
35 not exceed \$200,000 per year and the funding is not to

1 supplant additional allowable growth funding for dropouts and
2 dropout prevention.

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