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SENATE FILE 353

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and FLYNN

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

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the establishment of a class size reduction
2 weighting program and increasing the physical plant and
3 equipment levy limit for eligible school districts.

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

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S.F. 353

1 Section 1. Section 257.6, subsection 5, unnumbered
2 paragraph 1, Code 1997, is amended to read as follows:

3 Weighted enrollment is the budget enrollment plus the
4 district's additional enrollment because of special education
5 calculated on December 1 of the base year plus additional
6 pupils added due to the application of the supplementary
7 weighting pursuant to sections 257.11 and 257.13.

8 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 257.13 CLASS SIZE REDUCTION
9 WEIGHTING PROGRAM.

10 1. There is established a class size reduction weighting
11 program to provide additional funds for school districts that
12 develop a class size reduction plan. To be eligible for
13 supplementary weighting as provided in this section, a school
14 district shall submit annually by April 15 of the base year to
15 the department of education a plan which includes, at a
16 minimum, the goals of reducing class size in kindergarten and
17 grades one through three, instituting professional development
18 to assist teachers in teaching challenging curricula more
19 effectively, and engaging parents, teachers, school
20 administrators, and students in the achievement of the shared
21 goal of raising student achievement levels. In addition, the
22 plan shall provide for methods for measuring student
23 achievement and progress.

24 2. A pupil enrolled in a school district that meets the
25 requirements of subsection 1, and who is assigned to a self-
26 contained classroom in which the student-to-teacher ratio is
27 not more than fifteen students to one teacher, or the
28 equivalent in a school that utilizes team teaching methods,
29 and who is receiving at a minimum the grade-appropriate
30 educational program provided in accordance with section
31 256.11, is assigned a supplementary weighting of two-tenths,
32 which is in addition to any weighting received under section
33 257.6, if the pupil is enrolled in and attending the
34 following:

35 a. Full-day kindergarten, or a combined kindergarten and

1 grade one program, in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1997,
2 or in a succeeding fiscal year.

3 b. Full-day kindergarten, or a combined kindergarten and
4 grade one program, or grade one in the fiscal year beginning
5 July 1, 1998, or in a succeeding fiscal year.

6 c. Full-day kindergarten, or a combined kindergarten and
7 grade one program, grade one, or grade two in the fiscal year
8 beginning July 1, 1999, or in a succeeding fiscal year.

9 d. Full-day kindergarten, or a combined kindergarten and
10 grade one program, grade one, grade two, or grade three in the
11 fiscal year beginning July 1, 2000, or in a succeeding fiscal
12 year.

13 3. A school district shall provide a separate accounting
14 of the pupils eligible for supplemental weighting in
15 accordance with this section, when certifying its actual
16 enrollment to the department of education.

17 Sec. 3. Section 298.2, Code 1997, is amended by adding the
18 following new subsection:

19 NEW SUBSECTION. 6. Notwithstanding subsection 1, the
20 voter-approved physical plant and equipment levy in a school
21 district may exceed the sixty-seven cents per thousand dollars
22 of assessed valuation limit by twenty-five cents if the levy
23 exceeding sixty-seven cents per thousand dollars of assessed
24 valuation is established by a school district that has
25 developed a class size reduction plan pursuant to section
26 257.13. The revenue from the levy above the sixty-seven cent
27 limit provided for in subsection 1 shall be used for purposes
28 of facilities-related costs associated with reducing class
29 size in kindergarten and grades one through three.

30 Sec. 4. This Act takes effect July 1, 1997, for
31 computations required for the school year beginning July 1,
32 1998.

33 EXPLANATION

34 This bill establishes a class size reduction weighting
35 program to provide additional funds for school districts that

1 submit an annual plan to the department of education that
2 includes, at a minimum, the goals of reducing class size in
3 grades kindergarten through three, instituting professional
4 development to assist teachers in teaching challenging
5 curricula more effectively, and engaging parents, teachers,
6 school administrators, and students in the achievement of the
7 shared goal of raising student achievement. In addition, the
8 plan shall provide for methods for measuring student
9 achievement and progress.

10 The bill begins by assigning a supplemental weighting of
11 0.2 to full-day kindergarten students in the fiscal year
12 beginning July 1, 1997, and adds one grade per year until by
13 the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2000, all full-day
14 kindergarten through grade three pupils in self-contained
15 classrooms in which the student-to-teacher ratio is not more
16 than 15 students to one teacher, or the equivalent in a school
17 that utilizes team teaching methods, are assigned a
18 supplementary weighting of 0.2.

19 The bill permits the voter-approved physical plant and
20 equipment levy to exceed the current limit of 0.67 cents by
21 0.25 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation in the district
22 for school districts participating in the class size reduction
23 program.

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