

FILED MAR 12 1997

SENATE FILE 413
BY CONNOLLY

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 middle school youth
2 services grant program and making an appropriation.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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S.F. 413

1 Section 1. Section 279.51, subsection 1, unnumbered
2 paragraph 1, Code 1997, is amended to read as follows:

3 1. There is appropriated from the general fund of the
4 state to the department of education for the fiscal year
5 beginning July 1, ~~1996~~ 1997, and each succeeding fiscal year,
6 the sum of ~~fourteen~~ seventeen million ~~five~~ three hundred
7 twenty thousand 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 each of the fiscal years during the
11 fiscal period beginning July 1, 1997, and ending June 30,
12 2001, two million eight hundred thousand dollars of the funds
13 appropriated shall be allocated for the middle school youth
14 services program established in subsection 3A. For each of
15 the fiscal years during the fiscal period beginning July 1,
16 1997, and ending June 30, 2001, twenty thousand dollars of the
17 funds allocated in this paragraph shall be expended for staff
18 development, research, and the development of strategies for
19 coordination with community-based youth organizations and
20 agencies. A school that received a grant under paragraph "c"
21 is eligible to receive a grant under this paragraph provided
22 the school meets the requirements of this subsection. Subject
23 to the approval of the state board of education, the
24 allocation made in this paragraph may be renewed for
25 additional four-year periods of time.

26 Sec. 3. Section 279.51, Code 1997, is amended by adding
27 the following new subsection:

28 NEW SUBSECTION. 3A. a. A middle school youth services
29 grant program is established. The department of education, in
30 consultation with the department of human services, the
31 department of workforce development, the Iowa department of
32 public health, the division of criminal and juvenile justice
33 planning of the department of human rights, institutions of
34 higher learning with applicable programs, and the division of
35 job training and entrepreneurship assistance of the department

1 of economic development, shall develop a four-year
2 demonstration grant program that commences in the fiscal year
3 beginning July 1, 1997. The department shall provide grants
4 to individual or consortiums of middle schools to establish
5 school-based youth services programs, in conjunction with
6 local agencies and community organizations, based upon program
7 plans filed by the board of directors of the school district.

8 The department shall provide grants to establish model

9 programs in at least the following three size categories:

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

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

14 (3) A school district with an enrollment of at least five
15 thousand.

16 b. Priority shall be weighted toward need, middle schools
17 that have not received grants under paragraph "c", middle
18 schools whose plans indicate a high degree of active
19 participation by community-based youth organizations and
20 agencies, and middle schools with student populations
21 characterized by high rates of a number of the following:
22 school dropout, absenteeism, and truancy; nonparticipation in
23 extracurricular activities; homelessness and runaway
24 challenges; teenage pregnancy; juvenile court involvement;
25 family conflict; unemployment; teenage suicide; and mental
26 health, substance abuse, and other health problems. In
27 addition, priority shall be given to programs that provide
28 access to a center for children and youth after school,
29 evenings, weekends, and during the summer; and that provide a
30 twenty-four-hour telephone hotline or similar service.

31 c. The department shall coordinate an evaluation
32 initiative with the approved projects designed to investigate
33 program effectiveness in reducing the rates within communities
34 as described in paragraph "b". In developing the evaluation
35 initiative, the department shall consult with the department

1 of human services, the department of workforce development,
2 the Iowa department of public health, the division of criminal
3 and juvenile justice planning of the department of human
4 rights, institutions of higher learning with applicable
5 programs, and the division of job training and
6 entrepreneurship assistance of the department of economic
7 development.

8 d. Programs shall provide at a minimum recreational
9 opportunities, personal skills development, basic academic
10 skills development, family interaction opportunities, and
11 mentoring. Additional objectives of the programs shall be:
12 to reduce juvenile crime; recruit community volunteers;
13 improve the academic performance, attitudes, and behaviors of
14 middle school students; increase the ability of existing
15 agencies within the community to address the multiple problems
16 of youth and teenagers; and to coordinate activities and
17 facilitate joint planning to make the most economic and
18 innovative use of community resources. Programs shall at a
19 minimum provide mental health and family counseling services
20 and primary health care services that include but are not
21 limited to physical examinations, immunizations, hearing and
22 vision screening, and preventive and primary health care
23 services, in the context of the educational needs of the
24 students.

25 e. The plan shall include the appointment by the board of
26 a local advisory board for each proposed program, which at a
27 minimum shall include parents of students enrolled in the
28 middle school, a middle school teacher recommended by the
29 local teachers association, a representative from the health
30 and mental health community in the area, youths and teenagers
31 enrolled in the school and recommended by the school student
32 government, a representative from the nonprofit provider
33 community, and a representative from the juvenile court system
34 serving the area. Management of the program shall be by the
35 middle school or by a nonprofit youth service organization.

1 As used in this subsection, "youth service" means recreational
2 services, employment services, civic services, or juvenile
3 treatment services.

4 f. Program proposals shall include a written commitment
5 from the school principal and the board of directors of the
6 school district that the middle school will work to coordinate
7 and integrate existing school services and activities with the
8 center and shall include letters of support for the proposal
9 from the local teachers association; parent-teacher
10 organizations; community organizations; nonprofit agencies
11 providing social services, health, or career development
12 services in the area; the juvenile court system serving the
13 area; and the area private industry council.

14 g. Grants for the program shall not be used to construct a
15 new facility or to renovate an existing structure.

16 h. Program proposals shall include a commitment to a
17 contribution of at least twenty percent of the total costs of
18 the program from the board of directors of the school
19 district, which can include "in-kind" services. Partnerships
20 between the public and private sectors to provide employment
21 and training opportunities for youth served by the program are
22 particularly encouraged. The budget for a proposed program
23 shall not exceed two hundred thousand dollars per year.

24 i. For purposes of this section, "middle school" means a
25 separately organized and administered unit beginning with
26 grade five or six, or the equivalent, and including at least
27 two grades.

28

EXPLANATION

29 This bill adds \$2.8 million to the standing appropriation
30 for programs for at-risk children to provide for the
31 establishment of a middle school youth services program to be
32 developed as a four-year demonstration grant program by the
33 department of education in consultation with the departments
34 of public health, human services, workforce development,
35 economic development, the division of criminal and juvenile

1 justice planning of the department of human rights, and
2 institutions of higher learning with applicable programs.

3 Grants are to be awarded to programs in at least three size
4 categories: a school district with an enrollment of less than
5 1,200, a district with an enrollment of 1,200 to 4,999, and a
6 district with an enrollment of at least 5,000.

7 Priority shall be weighted toward need. Schools that have
8 not received any other school-based youth services grants
9 shall also be given a priority. In addition, priority shall
10 be given to schools whose plans indicate a high degree of
11 active participation by community-based youth organizations
12 and agencies and schools with student populations
13 characterized by high rates of a number of the following:
14 school dropouts, absenteeism, and truancy; nonparticipation in
15 extracurricular activities; homelessness and runaway
16 challenges; teenage pregnancy; juvenile court involvement;
17 family conflict; unemployment; teenage suicide; and mental
18 health, substance abuse, and other health problems. Lastly,
19 priority shall be given to programs that provide access to a
20 center for children and youth after school, evenings,
21 weekends, and during the summer and that provide a twenty-
22 four-hour telephone hotline or similar service.

23 The department shall coordinate an evaluation initiative
24 with the approved projects.

25 Programs shall provide at a minimum recreational
26 opportunities, personal skills development, basic academic
27 skills development, family interaction opportunities, and
28 mentoring.

29 Additional objectives of the programs shall be: to reduce
30 juvenile crime; recruit community volunteers; improve the
31 academic performance, attitudes, and behaviors of middle
32 school students; increase the ability of existing agencies
33 within the community to address the multiple problems of youth
34 and teenagers; and to coordinate activities and facilitate
35 joint planning to make the most economic and innovative use of

1 community resources. Programs shall at a minimum provide
2 mental health and family counseling services and primary
3 health care services that include but are not limited to
4 physical examinations, immunizations, hearing and vision
5 screening, and preventive and primary health care services, in
6 the context of the educational needs of the students.

7 The plan shall include the appointment of a local advisory
8 board for each proposed program. Management of the program
9 shall be by the middle school or by a nonprofit youth service
10 organization.

11 Program proposals shall include a contribution of at least
12 20 percent of the total costs of the program, which can
13 include "in-kind" services.

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