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EDUCATION

HOUSE FILE

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SUKUP, RANTS, JACOBS, and METCALF

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

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to early elementary reading assessments, creating
2 a grant program, and making an appropriation.

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

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HF 14

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 256.17 EARLY ELEMENTARY READING
2 GRANT PROGRAM -- APPROPRIATION.

3 1. The director shall establish an early elementary
4 reading grant program. The purpose of the grant program is to
5 enable school districts to meet the requirements of this
6 section, enhance teachers' skills in using teaching methods to
7 teach reading that have proven results gathered through
8 quantitative research, and to assist students in beginning
9 reading.

10 2. The director shall develop or identify a collection of
11 assessment tools that can be used to measure the reading
12 accuracy and fluency skills of children in kindergarten
13 through grade two. The assessments shall be designed to
14 provide diagnostic assessments of reading accuracy and fluency
15 skills to assist teachers with ongoing assessment of a child's
16 graphonemic awareness, phonemic awareness, oral reading
17 ability, and comprehension skills. The purposes of the
18 assessments are to prevent reading failure and improve a
19 struggling student's ability to achieve. The director shall
20 determine the appropriate intervals for the administration of
21 the assessments by school districts.

22 3. School districts shall administer the assessments
23 developed or identified by the director at intervals
24 determined by the director. A school district shall make
25 assessment results available for parent-teacher conferences.
26 At the parent-teacher conference, school districts shall
27 inform parents of their child's performance on the assessment.
28 If a child's score indicates intervention is appropriate, the
29 school district shall inform the parents of the actions the
30 school district intends to take to improve the child's reading
31 and fluency skills and provide the parents with strategies to
32 enable the parents to improve their child's score.

33 4. From the moneys appropriated in subsection 7, for each
34 fiscal year in which moneys are appropriated, the amount of
35 moneys allocated to school districts shall be in the

1 proportion that the basic enrollment of a district bears to
2 the sum of the basic enrollments of all school districts in
3 the state for the budget year. However, a district shall not
4 receive less than ten thousand dollars in a fiscal year.

5 5. For each year in which an appropriation is made to the
6 early elementary reading grant program, the department of
7 education shall notify the department of revenue and finance
8 of the amount of the allocation to be paid to each school
9 district as provided in subsection 4. The allocation to each
10 school district shall be made in one payment on or about
11 October 15 of the fiscal year in which the appropriation is
12 made, taking into consideration the relative budget and cash
13 position of the state resources. Moneys received under this
14 section shall not be commingled with state aid payments made
15 under section 257.16 to a school district and shall be
16 accounted for by the local school district separately from
17 state aid payments. Payments made to school districts under
18 this section are miscellaneous income for purposes of chapter
19 257 or are considered encumbered. Each local school district
20 shall maintain a separate listing within its budget for
21 payments received and expenditures made pursuant to this
22 section. Moneys received under this section shall not be used
23 for payment of any collective bargaining agreement or
24 arbitrator's decision negotiated or awarded under chapter 20.

25 6. School districts shall expend funds received pursuant
26 to this section for the acquisition and administration of
27 assessments required pursuant to this section; the
28 implementation of reading academies or other intensive,
29 structured, research-based reading and reading intervention
30 programs; the acquisition of instructional or diagnostic
31 reading materials; necessary reading materials for school
32 libraries and media centers; instructional staff for reading;
33 and related professional staff development. Moneys received
34 under this section shall supplement, not supplant, moneys a
35 school district budgets for staffing, professional

1 development, services, or materials related to reading
2 instruction.

3 7. There is appropriated from the general fund of the
4 state to the department for each fiscal year the sum of nine
5 million dollars for the early elementary reading grant
6 program. For each fiscal year, the department shall not use
7 more than five percent of the total amount available in the
8 fund to pay for the costs of administration of the program.

9 8. School districts shall submit an annual report to the
10 department describing student and school district progress
11 made as a result of implementation of the grant program.

12 9. The state board of education shall adopt rules under
13 chapter 17A to implement the early elementary reading grant
14 program.

15 10. The appropriation made in subsection 7 shall be deemed
16 to meet all the state funding-related requirements of section
17 25B.2, subsection 3, and no additional state funding shall be
18 necessary for the full implementation of this section by and
19 enforcement of this section against all affected school
20 districts.

21 EXPLANATION

22 This bill appropriates \$9 million from the general fund of
23 the state to the department of education for purposes of
24 establishing and implementing an early elementary reading
25 grant program. The purpose of the grant program is to enable
26 school districts to meet the reading assessment requirements
27 of the bill, enhance teachers' skills in using teaching
28 methods to teach reading that have proven results gathered
29 through quantitative research, and to assist students in
30 beginning reading.

31 The bill directs the director of the department of
32 education to develop or identify a collection of assessment
33 tools that can be used to measure the reading accuracy and
34 fluency skills of children in kindergarten through grade two.
35 The assessments shall be designed to provide diagnostic

1 assessments of reading accuracy and fluency skills to assist
2 teachers with ongoing assessment of a child's graphonemic
3 awareness, phonemic awareness, oral reading ability, and
4 comprehension skills.

5 School districts are required under the bill to administer
6 the reading assessments at intervals determined by the
7 director. At parent-teacher conferences, schools districts
8 shall inform parents of their child's performance on the
9 assessment. If a child's score indicates intervention is
10 appropriate, the school district shall inform the parents of
11 the actions the school district intends to take to improve the
12 child's reading and fluency skills and provide the parents
13 with strategies to enable the parents to improve their child's
14 score.

15 The bill provides for per pupil distribution of the grant
16 moneys. However, a district shall not receive less than
17 \$10,000 in a fiscal year.

18 School districts can expend grant funds for the acquisition
19 and administration of reading assessments, the acquisition of
20 instructional or diagnostic reading materials, necessary
21 reading materials for school libraries and media centers,
22 instructional staff for reading, and related professional
23 staff development. Moneys received under this section shall
24 supplement, not supplant, moneys a school district budgets for
25 staffing, professional development, services, or materials
26 related to reading instruction.

27 The department is permitted to use up to 5 percent of the
28 moneys appropriated for the program to pay for the costs of
29 administration of the program.

30 School districts are required to submit an annual report to
31 the department describing student and school district progress
32 made as a result of implementation of the grant program.

33 The bill may include a state mandate as defined in Code
34 section 25B.3. The bill also includes a standing
35 appropriation to comply with the state mandate funding-related

1 requirements of Code section 25B.2. The inclusion of the
2 appropriation is intended to reinstate the requirement of
3 school districts to comply with any state mandates included in
4 the bill.

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