

JAN 7 1 1999
EDUCATION

HOUSE FILE 17
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HAHN, BODDICKER, RANTS, and
METCALF

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

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to practitioner preparation and professional
2 development for beginning and experienced educators.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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1 Section 1. Section 256.9, Code 1999, is amended by adding
2 the following new subsections:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 49. Conduct an ongoing study, in
4 consultation with the board of educational examiners, to
5 enable the director to project future teacher and endorsement
6 shortage areas.

7 NEW SUBSECTION. 50. Develop, in consultation with the
8 area education agencies, a statewide assistance support
9 network to provide school districts with assistance in
10 identifying future teachers and encouraging and facilitating
11 their successful admission to a practitioner preparation
12 program.

13 Sec. 2. Section 256.11, Code 1999, is amended by adding
14 the following new subsection:

15 NEW SUBSECTION. 9. Unless a waiver has been obtained
16 under section 256.11A, each school or school district shall
17 have all of the following:

18 a. A media center in each attendance center accessible to
19 students throughout the school day.

20 b. A qualified school media services specialist who meets
21 the licensing standards prescribed by the board of educational
22 examiners and is responsible for media center supervision.

23 c. An articulated sequential elementary-secondary guidance
24 program for grades kindergarten through twelve and a guidance
25 counselor who meets the licensing standards prescribed by the
26 board of educational examiners. In determining the
27 requirements of this subsection for nonpublic schools, the
28 department shall evaluate the schools on a school system basis
29 rather than on an individual school basis.

30 Sec. 3. Section 256.11A, subsections 1 and 2, Code 1999,
31 are amended to read as follows:

32 1. Schools and school districts ~~unable-to-meet-the~~
33 ~~standard-adopted-by-the-state-board-requiring-each-school-or~~
34 ~~school-district-operating-a-kindergarten-through-grade-twelve~~
35 ~~program-to-provide-an-articulated-sequential-elementary-~~

1 ~~secondary-guidance-program~~ may, not later than August 1, 1995
2 1999, for the school year beginning July 1, 1995 1999, file a
3 written request to the department of education that the
4 department waive the requirement, for established in section
5 256.11, subsection 9, paragraph "c", that a school or school
6 district operating a kindergarten through grade twelve
7 program, provide an articulated sequential elementary-
8 secondary guidance program. The procedures specified in
9 subsection 3 apply to the request. Not later than August 1,
10 1996 2000, for the school year beginning July 1, 1996 2000,
11 the board of directors of a school district or the authorities
12 in charge of a nonpublic school may request a one-year
13 extension of the waiver.

14 2. Not later than August 1, 1995 1999, for the school year
15 beginning July 1, 1995 1999, the board of directors of a
16 school district, or authorities in charge of a nonpublic
17 school, may file a written request with the department of
18 education that the department waive ~~the-rule-adopted-by-the~~
19 ~~state-board-to-establish-and-operate~~ the requirements
20 established under section 256.11, subsection 9, paragraphs "a"
21 and "b", for a media services program-to-support-the-total
22 curriculum-for-that-district-or-school center and a media
23 services specialist. The procedures specified in subsection 3
24 apply to the request. Not later than August 1, 1996 2000, for
25 the school year beginning July 1, 1996 2000, the board of
26 directors of a school district or the authorities in charge of
27 a nonpublic school may request an additional one-year
28 extension of the waiver.

29 Sec. 4. Section 256.16, Code 1999, is amended to read as
30 follows:

31 256.16 SPECIFIC CRITERIA FOR TEACHER PREPARATION AND
32 CERTAIN EDUCATORS.

33 1. Pursuant to section 256.7, subsection 5, the state
34 board shall adopt rules requiring all higher education
35 institutions providing practitioner preparation to include do

1 the following:

2 a. Administer a basic skills test to practitioner
3 preparation program admission candidates. Rules adopted shall
4 require institutions to deny admission to the program to any
5 candidate who does not successfully pass the test.

6 b. Include in the professional education program,
7 preparation that contributes to education of students with
8 disabilities and students who are gifted and talented, which
9 must be successfully completed before graduation from the
10 practitioner preparation program.

11 2. A person initially applying for a license shall
12 successfully complete a professional education program
13 containing the subject matter specified in this section,
14 before the initial action by the board of educational
15 examiners takes place.

16 Sec. 5. NEW SECTION. 256.17 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND
17 PLANNING TIME PILOT PROJECT.

18 The general assembly finds that classroom management has
19 increased in difficulty and complexity. Where once
20 heterogeneous groups of children populated Iowa's classrooms,
21 today's students are from diverse racial, ethnic, and social
22 backgrounds. Behavioral disorders and special education needs
23 have multiplied. Teachers must be prepared to manage
24 classrooms well, to communicate with and engage parents in
25 their child's education, to assess students' developmental
26 needs, and to organize and work in teams. To meet these
27 needs, a pilot project for professional development and
28 planning time is established under the control of the
29 department of education, subject to an appropriation of
30 sufficient funds by the general assembly.

31 The board of directors of a school district may request
32 approval from the state board of education to establish a
33 pilot project that extends the school year by twenty days to
34 provide professional educators and administrators employed by
35 the district more opportunities and time for professional

1 development and planning.

2 The request shall describe the anticipated additional costs
3 to the school district and the benefits to be gained from
4 extending the school calendar to a two-hundred-day minimum.
5 Students in a pilot project school district shall not be
6 required to attend school more than one hundred eighty days or
7 the equivalent each school year.

8 Participation in a pilot project shall not modify
9 provisions of a master contract negotiated between a school
10 district and a certified bargaining unit pursuant to chapter
11 20 unless mutually agreed to by the parties.

12 If moneys are appropriated by the general assembly for
13 funding the costs of pilot projects under this section, the
14 state board of education shall notify the department of
15 revenue and finance of the amounts to be paid to each school
16 district with an approved pilot project.

17 Sec. 6. NEW SECTION. 256E.1 DEFINITIONS.

18 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise
19 requires:

20 1. "Beginning teacher" means an individual serving under
21 an initial provisional or conditional license, issued by the
22 board of educational examiners under chapter 272, who is
23 assuming a position as a classroom teacher.

24 2. "Board of directors" means the board of directors of a
25 school district or a collaboration of boards of directors of
26 school districts.

27 3. "Classroom teacher" means an individual who holds a
28 valid practitioner's license and who is employed by a school
29 district under sections 279.13 through 279.19 in a school
30 district or area education agency in this state to provide
31 instruction to students.

32 4. "Department" means the department of education.

33 5. "Director" means the director of the department of
34 education.

35 6. "District facilitator" means a practitioner pursuant to

1 chapter 272 who is appointed by a board of directors to serve
2 as the liaison between the board of directors and the
3 department for the beginning teacher induction program.

4 7. "Mentor" means an individual employed by a school
5 district or area education agency as a classroom teacher who
6 holds a valid license to teach issued under chapter 272.

7 Sec. 7. NEW SECTION. 256E.2 BEGINNING TEACHER INDUCTION
8 PROGRAM ESTABLISHED -- GOALS -- GRANTS.

9 If the general assembly appropriates moneys for purposes of
10 teacher induction, the department of education shall
11 coordinate a beginning teacher induction program to promote
12 excellence in teaching, to build a supportive environment
13 within school districts, to increase the retention of
14 promising beginning teachers, and to promote the personal and
15 professional well-being of teachers. The department of
16 education shall develop a process for awarding beginning
17 teacher induction grants to school districts, and shall adopt
18 rules pursuant to chapter 17A relating to the equitable
19 distribution of grants to school districts to reflect
20 diversity geographically and by population.

21 Sec. 8. NEW SECTION. 256E.3 DISTRICT FACILITATOR,
22 COMMITTEE, AND PLAN.

23 1. A board of directors participating in the beginning
24 teacher induction program shall appoint a district
25 facilitator, whose duties shall include, but are not limited
26 to, overseeing the development of a plan for meeting the goals
27 of the program as set forth in section 256E.1, and composing a
28 district committee pursuant to subsection 2. The board of
29 directors may contract with a public or private postsecondary
30 institution with an approved practitioner preparation program,
31 or with a member of the instructional staff of an approved
32 practitioner preparation program, to perform the duties of the
33 district facilitator in accordance with this chapter.

34 2. The membership of the district committee composed by
35 the district facilitator shall include, but is not limited to,

1 licensed practitioners and an area education agency staff
2 development professional.

3 3. The district committee shall adopt a plan and written
4 procedures for a mentor program consistent with this chapter.
5 The plan and the written procedures shall, at a minimum,
6 provide the process for the selection of and the number of
7 mentors; the mentor training process; the timetable by which
8 the plan shall be implemented; placement of mentors and
9 beginning teachers; the minimum amount of contact time between
10 mentors and beginning teachers; the minimum amount of release
11 time for mentors and beginning teachers for meetings for
12 planning, demonstration, observation, feedback, and workshops;
13 the process for dissolving mentoring partnerships; and the
14 process for measuring the results of the program. The
15 district committee shall recommend to the board of directors
16 the names of classroom teachers eligible to be mentors.

17 4. The district facilitator shall submit the plan, and the
18 proposed costs of implementing the plan, to the board of
19 directors, which shall consider the plan and, once approved,
20 submit the plan and a reasonable cost proposal to the
21 department of education, which shall award grants as equitably
22 as possible based on the geographic and population diversity
23 of the school districts submitting plans. Grants may be
24 awarded in subsequent years based upon the most recent plan on
25 file with the department.

26 5. The district committee is encouraged to work with area
27 education agencies and postsecondary institutions in the
28 preparation and implementation of a plan.

29 Sec. 9. NEW SECTION. 256E.4 BEGINNING TEACHER AND MENTOR
30 SELECTION AND PLACEMENT.

31 1. To be eligible to be a mentor, a licensed practitioner
32 shall, at a minimum, be employed by a school district as a
33 classroom teacher, have a record of at least four years of
34 effective practice, have been employed for one full year in
35 the district on a nonprobationary basis, and demonstrate

1 professional commitment to the improvement of teaching and
2 learning, and the development of beginning teachers.

3 2. The district facilitator shall place beginning teachers
4 in a manner that provides the greatest opportunity to
5 participate with the largest number of mentors.

6 Sec. 10. NEW SECTION. 256E.5 BEGINNING TEACHER INDUCTION
7 STATE SUBSIDY -- FUND.

8 1. A mentor in an approved beginning teacher induction
9 program under this chapter shall be eligible for an award of
10 five hundred dollars per semester of participation in the
11 program, which shall be paid from moneys received pursuant to
12 this chapter by the school district employing the mentor.

13 2. Moneys received by a school district pursuant to this
14 chapter shall be expended to provide mentors with awards in
15 accordance with subsection 1, to implement the plan, to
16 provide for a stipend for the district facilitator, and to pay
17 the costs of the employer's share of contributions to federal
18 social security and the Iowa public employees' retirement
19 system or a pension and annuity retirement system established
20 under chapter 294, for such amounts paid by the district.

21 3. Moneys received by a school district under this chapter
22 are miscellaneous income for purposes of chapter 257 or are
23 considered encumbered. A school district shall maintain a
24 separate listing within its budget for payments received and
25 expenditures made pursuant to this chapter. Moneys received
26 for purposes of this chapter shall not be used for payment of
27 any collective bargaining agreement or arbitrator's decision
28 negotiated or awarded under chapter 20.

29 4. A beginning teacher induction fund is established in
30 the office of the treasurer of state to be administered by the
31 department. Moneys appropriated by the general assembly for
32 deposit in the fund shall be used to provide funding to school
33 districts pursuant to the requirements of this section.

34 5. Notwithstanding section 8.33, unencumbered or
35 unobligated funds remaining on June 30 of the fiscal year for

1 which the funds were appropriated shall not revert but shall
2 be available for expenditure in the following fiscal year for
3 the purposes of this section.

4 Sec. 11. NEW SECTION. 256E.6 REPORTS.

5 The board of directors implementing an approved beginning
6 teacher induction program as provided in this chapter shall
7 submit an assessment of the program's results by July 1 of the
8 fiscal year succeeding the year in which the school district
9 received moneys under this chapter. The department shall
10 annually report the statewide results of the program to the
11 chairpersons and the ranking members of the senate and house
12 education committees by January 1.

13 Sec. 12. NEW SECTION. 261.114 EDUCATOR ENDORSEMENT
14 SHORTAGE AREA FORGIVABLE LOAN PROGRAM.

15 1. Subject to an appropriation of sufficient funds by the
16 general assembly, an educator endorsement shortage area
17 forgivable loan program is established to be administered by
18 the college student aid commission. An individual is eligible
19 for the forgivable loan program if the individual is a
20 resident of this state who is enrolled as a sophomore, junior,
21 or senior, in an approved practitioner preparation program in
22 a designated endorsement area in which teacher shortages are
23 anticipated, at an institution of higher learning under the
24 control of the state board of regents or an accredited private
25 institution as defined in section 261.9.

26 2. The director of the department of education shall
27 annually designate the endorsement areas in which teacher
28 shortages are anticipated.

29 3. Each applicant shall, in accordance with the rules of
30 the commission, do the following:

31 a. Complete and file an application for an educator
32 endorsement shortage area forgivable loan. The individual
33 shall be responsible for the submission of the parents'
34 confidential statement for processing to both the commission
35 and the institution in which the applicant is enrolling.

1 b. Report promptly to the commission any information
2 requested.

3 c. File a new application and parents' confidential
4 statement annually on the basis of which the applicant's
5 eligibility for the renewed forgivable loan will be evaluated
6 and determined.

7 4. Forgivable loans to eligible students shall not become
8 due until after the student graduates or leaves school. The
9 individual's total loan amount, including principal and
10 interest, shall be reduced by twenty percent for each year in
11 which the individual remains an Iowa resident and is employed
12 by a school district or an accredited nonpublic school as a
13 teacher in the area for which the loan was approved. If the
14 commission determines that the person does not meet the
15 criteria for forgiveness of the principal and interest
16 payments, the commission shall establish a plan for repayment
17 of the principal and interest over a ten-year period. If a
18 person required to make the repayment does not make the
19 required payments, the commission shall provide for payment
20 collection.

21 5. The amount of an educator endorsement shortage area
22 forgivable loan shall not exceed three thousand dollars
23 annually, or the amount of the student's established financial
24 need, whichever is less.

25 6. The interest rate for the forgivable loan shall be
26 equal to the interest rate collected by an eligible lender
27 under the Iowa guaranteed student loan program for the year in
28 which the forgivable loan is made.

29 7. An educator endorsement shortage area forgivable loan
30 repayment fund is created for deposit of payments made by
31 forgivable loan recipients who do not fulfill the conditions
32 of the forgivable loan program. Notwithstanding section 8.33,
33 moneys deposited in the fund shall not revert to the general
34 fund of the state at the end of any fiscal year but shall
35 remain in the forgivable loan repayment fund and be

1 continuously available to make additional loans under the
2 program.

3 | Sec. 13. Section 272.2, Code 1999, is amended by adding
4 the following new subsections:

5 NEW SUBSECTION. 16. Develop or identify assessments
6 appropriate to content areas of specialization, which the
7 board shall administer to candidates prior to initial Iowa
8 licensure. The board shall issue a license only to a
9 candidate who successfully passes an assessment appropriate to
10 the candidate's content area of specialization.

11 NEW SUBSECTION. 17. Adopt rules requiring candidates for
12 initial Iowa licensure as secondary school teachers to
13 successfully complete content-area reading coursework.

14 NEW SUBSECTION. 18. Adopt rules for the alternative
15 licensure of content area specialists in subject or service
16 shortage areas.

17 | Sec. 14. Section 272.3, unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 1999,
18 is amended to read as follows:

19 | The board of educational examiners consists of ~~eleven~~
20 ~~thirteen~~ members. ~~Two~~ Four must be members of the general
21 public and the remaining nine must be licensed practitioners.
22 ~~One-of-the-public~~ Public members shall ~~also-be~~ include the
23 director of the department of education, or the director's
24 designee, ~~The-other-public-member-shall-be~~ a person who does
25 not hold a practitioner's license, but has a demonstrated
26 interest in education, a person from a list of nominees
27 submitted to the governor by the state board of regents, and a
28 person from a list of nominees submitted to the governor by
29 the Iowa association of independent colleges and universities.
30 The nine practitioners shall be selected from the following
31 areas and specialties of the teaching profession:

32 | Sec. 15. Section 272.3, unnumbered paragraph 2, Code 1999,
33 is amended to read as follows:

34 A majority of the licensed practitioner members shall be
35 nonadministrative practitioners. Four of the members shall be

1 administrators. Membership of the board shall comply with the
2 requirements of sections 69.16 and 69.16A. A quorum of the
3 board shall consist of ~~six~~ seven members. The director of the
4 department of education shall serve as the chairperson of the
5 board. Members, except for the director of the department of
6 education, shall be appointed by the governor and the
7 appointments are subject to confirmation by the senate.

8 Sec. 16. Section 272.4, unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 1999,
9 is amended to read as follows:

10 Members, except for the director of the department of
11 education, shall be appointed to serve staggered terms of four
12 years. A member shall not serve more than two consecutive
13 terms, except for the director of the department of education,
14 who shall serve until the director's term of office expires.
15 A member of the board, except for the ~~two~~ four public members,
16 shall hold a valid practitioner's license during the member's
17 term of office. A vacancy exists when any of the following
18 occur:

19 Sec. 17. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STUDY. The director of
20 the department of education shall appoint a task force to
21 study the issues and feasibility of establishing a volunteer
22 program to encourage retired teachers and administrators to
23 return to education as mentors and aides in school districts.
24 The chairperson of the task force shall be the director of the
25 department of education, or the director's designee. The task
26 force shall report its findings and recommendations to the
27 chairpersons and the ranking members of the senate and house
28 standing committees on education by January 15, 2000.

29 Sec. 18. BOARD OF EDUCATIONAL EXAMINERS REPORT. The board
30 of educational examiners shall analyze the content area of
31 specialization assessment results administered prior to
32 initial Iowa licensure and shall develop and recommend
33 policies relating to initial Iowa licensure candidates who do
34 not successfully pass the assessment. The board shall submit
35 its analysis and recommendations in a report to the senate and

1 house standing committees on education by January 15, 2001.

2 Sec. 19. FINDINGS. The general assembly finds that the
3 state suffers severe teacher shortages in certain fields, and
4 is concerned that within five years, the nation will face an
5 overall shortage of teachers. The general assembly therefore
6 encourages school districts to ensure their future ability to
7 hire qualified professional practitioners by establishing
8 future teacher associations and by supporting teachers and
9 students who participate in these associations.

10 Sec. 20. STUDY REQUEST. The general assembly hereby
11 requests the Iowa association of colleges of teacher education
12 to study and report its findings to the standing senate
13 committee on education and house committee on education by
14 January 15, 2000, on the following: field experiences,
15 including the current number of hours required by each of the
16 approved programs within the state, whether the institutions
17 expect to increase or decrease the required hours, and the
18 characteristics of the experiences provided; the method of
19 collaboration between approved practitioner preparation
20 programs and local school districts, and between approved
21 practitioner preparation programs and other content area-
22 related colleges within their institutions; and faculty
23 interaction, including the current number of contact hours
24 with school districts and beginning teachers each of the
25 approved programs within the state requires of its faculty
26 members, whether the institutions expect to increase or
27 decrease the required hours, and the characteristics of the
28 professional contact.

29 EXPLANATION

30 This bill is based upon the recommendations of the teacher
31 preparation study committee, which met during the 1998
32 Interim.

33 The bill includes the following:

34 Code section 256.9, subsections 49 and 50: Increases the
35 duties of the director of education by requiring the director

1 to conduct an ongoing study, in consultation with the board of
2 educational examiners, to enable the director to project
3 future teacher and endorsement shortage areas; and to develop,
4 in consultation with the area education agencies, a statewide
5 assistance support network to provide school districts with
6 assistance in identifying, encouraging, and facilitating
7 future teachers.

8 Code sections 256.11, subsection 9, and 256.11A:

9 Reestablishes a statutory requirement that each school or
10 school district has, unless a waiver has been obtained, a
11 media center in each attendance center accessible to students
12 throughout the school day, a qualified school media services
13 specialist responsible for media center supervision, and an
14 articulated sequential elementary-secondary guidance program
15 for grades kindergarten through 12. The bill also extends the
16 time in which schools may apply for waivers to August 1, 2000.

17 Code section 256.16: Requires the state board of education
18 to adopt rules requiring all higher education institutions
19 providing practitioner preparation to administer a basic
20 skills test to practitioner preparation program admission
21 candidates. The bill also requires that institutions deny
22 admission to the program to any candidate who does not
23 successfully pass the test.

24 Code section 256.17: Establishes a professional
25 development and planning time pilot project under the control
26 of the department of education, subject to an appropriation of
27 sufficient funds by the general assembly.

28 Under this provision, the board of directors of a school
29 district may request approval from the state board of
30 education for a pilot project that extends the school year by
31 20 days to provide professional educators and administrators
32 employed by the district more opportunities and time for
33 professional development and planning. The application must
34 describe the anticipated additional costs to the school
35 district and the benefits to be gained from extending the

1 school calendar to a 200-day minimum. Students would not be
2 required to attend school more than 180 days or the equivalent
3 each school year. Participation does not modify provisions of
4 a master contract negotiated between a school district and a
5 certified bargaining unit unless mutually agreed to by the
6 parties.

7 Code chapter 256E: Directs the department of education, if
8 the general assembly appropriates sufficient funds, to
9 establish a beginning teacher induction program to promote
10 excellence in teaching, build a supportive environment in
11 school districts, increase the retention of promising
12 beginning teachers, and promote the personal and professional
13 well-being of teachers.

14 | The bill directs the department of education to develop a
15 process to be used in awarding beginning teacher grants.

16 A teacher serving as a mentor under the program is eligible
17 for an award of \$500 per semester of participation. Moneys
18 received by a district shall be expended to implement the
19 plan, for awards to mentors, and for the costs of the
20 employer's share of contributions to federal social security
21 and the Iowa public employees' retirement system or a pension
22 and annuity retirement system established under chapter 294,
23 for such amounts paid by the districts.

24 | The bill establishes a beginning teacher induction fund in
25 the office of the treasurer of state to be administered by the
26 department of education.

27 | A school district shall appoint a district facilitator
28 whose duties include overseeing the development of a plan for
29 meeting program goals and composing a district committee. The
30 district committee membership shall include, but is not
31 limited to, the district facilitator, licensed teachers, and
32 an area education agency staff development professional. The
33 district committee must adopt a plan and written procedures
34 for a mentor program which shall, at a minimum, address the
35 mentor selection and training processes, the timetable for

1 plan implementation, placement, minimum contact and release
2 time, measurement of results, workshops, and dissolving
3 mentoring partnerships. District committees are encouraged to
4 collaborate with area education agencies and postsecondary
5 institutions in the preparation and implementation of plans.
6 The district committee shall recommend to the board of
7 directors the names of classroom teachers eligible to be
8 mentors.

9 The board of directors shall submit the plan and a cost
10 proposal to the department, which shall award grants to school
11 districts, selecting from the school districts submitting
12 plans based solely upon equitability and geographic and
13 population diversity.

14 The bill also requires that a licensed teacher, to be
15 eligible to be a mentor, be employed by a school district as a
16 classroom teacher, have a record of at least four years of
17 effective practice, have been employed for one full year in
18 the district on a nonprobationary basis, and demonstrate
19 professional commitment to the improvement of teaching and
20 learning, and the development of beginning teachers.

21 Code section 261.114: Establishes, subject to an
22 appropriation of sufficient funds by the general assembly, an
23 educator endorsement shortage area forgivable loan program to
24 be administered by the college student aid commission. The
25 program will be available to Iowa residents who are enrolled
26 as sophomores, juniors, or seniors, in approved practitioner
27 preparation programs in a designated endorsement area in which
28 teacher shortages are anticipated, at a regents university or
29 an accredited private institution.

30 The bill requires the director of the department of
31 education to annually designate the endorsement areas in which
32 teacher shortages are anticipated.

33 Forgivable loans to eligible students shall not become due
34 until after the student graduates or leaves school. The
35 individual's total loan amount, including principal and

1 interest, shall be reduced by 20 percent for each year in
2 which the individual remains an Iowa resident and is employed
3 by a school district or an accredited nonpublic school as a
4 teacher in the endorsement area for which the loan was
5 approved. If the commission determines that the person does
6 not meet the criteria for forgiveness of the principal and
7 interest payments, the commission shall establish a plan for
8 repayment of the principal and interest over a 10-year period.
9 If a person required to make the repayment does not make the
10 required payments, the commission shall provide for payment
11 collection.

12 The amount of an educator endorsement shortage area
13 forgivable loan shall not exceed \$3,000 annually, or the
14 amount of the student's established financial need, whichever
15 is less. The interest rate for the forgivable loan shall be
16 equal to the interest rate collected by an eligible lender
17 under the Iowa guaranteed student loan program for the year in
18 which the forgivable loan is made.

19 An educator endorsement shortage area forgivable loan
20 repayment fund is created for deposit of payments made by
21 forgivable loan recipients who do not fulfill the conditions
22 of the forgivable loan program. Moneys deposited in the
23 forgivable loan repayment fund shall not revert to the general
24 fund of the state at the end of any fiscal year.

25 Code section 272.2: Directs the board of educational
26 examiners to develop or identify assessments appropriate to
27 content areas of specialization, which the board shall
28 administer to candidates prior to initial Iowa licensure.
29 Under the bill, the board can issue a license only to
30 candidates who successfully pass an assessment appropriate to
31 their content area of specialization; adopt rules requiring
32 candidates for initial Iowa licensure as secondary school
33 teachers to successfully complete content-area reading
34 coursework; and adopt rules for the alternative licensure of
35 content area specialists in subject or service shortage areas.

1 Code sections 272.3, unnumbered paragraphs 1 and 2, and
2 272.4, unnumbered paragraph 1: Increases from 11 to 13 the
3 membership of the board of educational examiners. One new
4 member will be a person from a list of nominees submitted to
5 the governor by the state board of regents, and the other will
6 be a person from a list of nominees submitted to the governor
7 by the Iowa association of independent colleges and
8 universities.

9 The bill also includes session law requiring or requesting,
10 as appropriate, the following:

11 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TASK FORCE. The director of the
12 department of education to appoint a task force to study the
13 issues and feasibility of establishing a volunteer program to
14 encourage retired teachers and administrators to return to
15 education as mentors and aides in school districts. The task
16 force shall report its findings and recommendations to the
17 chairpersons and the ranking members of the senate and house
18 standing committees on education by January 15, 2000.

19 BOARD OF EDUCATIONAL EXAMINERS REPORT. The board of
20 educational examiners to analyze the content area of
21 specialization assessment results administered prior to
22 initial Iowa licensure and to develop and recommend policies
23 relating to initial Iowa licensure candidates who do not
24 successfully pass the assessment. The board shall submit its
25 analysis and recommendations in a report to the senate and
26 house standing committees on education by January 15, 2001.

27 FINDINGS. Finally, the bill includes the findings of the
28 general assembly and its concerns relating to current severe
29 teacher shortages in certain fields and a future overall
30 shortage of teachers. The general assembly therefore
31 encourages school districts to ensure their future ability to
32 hire qualified professional practitioners by establishing
33 future teacher associations and by supporting teachers and
34 students who participate in these associations.

35 STUDY REQUEST. The Iowa association of colleges of teacher

1 education is requested to study and report its findings to the
2 standing senate committee on education and house committee on
3 education by January 15, 2000, on the following: field
4 experiences; the method of collaboration between approved
5 practitioner preparation programs and local school districts,
6 and between approved practitioner preparation programs and
7 other content area-related colleges within their institutions;
8 and faculty interaction.

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