

FEB 2 1999

EDUCATION

HOUSE FILE 175  
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Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to accountability for student achievement in  
2 employability skills, making appropriations, and providing an  
3 effective date.

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

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HF 175

1 Section 1. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION. There is appropriated  
2 from the general fund of the state to the department of  
3 education for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1999, and  
4 ending June 30, 2000, the following amount, or so much thereof  
5 as is necessary, to be used for the purpose designated:

6 For payment of claims to reimburse school districts for the  
7 costs of acquisition and administration of employability  
8 skills assessment tools in grades nine and twelve:

9 ..... \$ 750,000

10 Sec. 2. Section 256.7, subsection 21, paragraph b, Code  
11 1999, is amended to read as follows:

12 b. A set of core academic indicators in mathematics and  
13 reading in grades four, eight, and eleven, a set of core  
14 academic indicators in science in grades eight and eleven, and  
15 another set of core indicators that includes, but is not  
16 limited to, graduation rate, postsecondary education, and  
17 successful employment in Iowa. In addition, beginning July 1,  
18 2000, the rules shall provide for a set of core academic  
19 indicators in employability skills in grades nine and twelve.  
20 Annually, the department shall report state data for each  
21 indicator in the condition of education report.

22 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. 256.24 PAYMENT OF CLAIMS FOR  
23 EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS ASSESSMENTS -- APPROPRIATION.

24 1. The director of the department of education shall  
25 develop or identify appropriate employability skills  
26 assessment tools that school districts shall, beginning July  
27 1, 2000, administer to meet the requirements for core academic  
28 indicators in employability skills under rules administered by  
29 the department of education pursuant to section 256.7,  
30 subsection 21, paragraph "b".

31 2. If the general assembly appropriates funds to the  
32 department for the payment of claims to reimburse school  
33 districts for the costs of acquisition and administration of  
34 an employability skills assessment tool in grades nine and  
35 twelve, a school district may submit a claim to the department

1 of education, on forms provided by the department, for  
2 reimbursement. A claim submitted to the department shall  
3 state the actual costs incurred and shall be accompanied by an  
4 affidavit of an officer of the public school district  
5 affirming the accuracy of the claim.

6 3. From the moneys appropriated by the general assembly  
7 for payment of claims to reimburse school districts for the  
8 costs of acquisition and administration of employability  
9 skills assessment tools in grades nine and twelve, taking into  
10 consideration the relative budget and cash position of the  
11 state resources, for each year in which an appropriation is  
12 made for purposes described in this subsection, the department  
13 of education shall certify to the department of revenue and  
14 finance, by February 1 and on or about June 15, the amounts of  
15 approved claims to be paid, and the department of revenue and  
16 finance shall draw warrants payable to school districts with  
17 approved claims.

18 4. Payments made to a school district under this section  
19 are miscellaneous income for purposes of chapter 257.

20 5. There is appropriated from the general fund of the  
21 state to the department of education for the fiscal year  
22 beginning July 1, 2000, and for each succeeding fiscal year,  
23 the sum of one million six hundred thousand dollars for  
24 payment of claims to reimburse school districts for the costs  
25 incurred by the school districts for acquisition and  
26 administration of employability skills assessment tools in  
27 grades nine and twelve.

28 6. If the director of the department of education  
29 determines that the moneys appropriated by the general  
30 assembly for payment of claims to reimburse school districts  
31 for the costs of acquiring and administering employability  
32 skills assessment tools in grades nine and twelve, are  
33 insufficient to pay in full all claims submitted and approved  
34 in accordance with this section, the amounts of approved  
35 claims to be paid shall be prorated among all school districts

1 with approved claims.

2 7. The state board of education shall adopt rules pursuant  
3 to chapter 17A to administer this section.

4 Sec. 4. IMPLEMENTATION OF ACT. The appropriations made as  
5 a result of the enactment of this Act are intended to cover  
6 the costs of any state mandate included in this Act and this  
7 specification of state funding shall be deemed to meet all the  
8 state funding-related requirements of section 25B.2,  
9 subsection 3, and no additional state funding shall be  
10 necessary for the full implementation of this Act by, and  
11 enforcement of this Act against, all affected school  
12 districts.

13 Sec. 5. EMERGENCY RULES. The department of education may  
14 adopt emergency rules under section 17A.4, subsection 2, and  
15 section 17A.5, subsection 2, paragraph "b", to implement the  
16 provisions of this Act and the rules shall be effective  
17 immediately upon filing unless a later date is specified in  
18 the rules. Any rules adopted in accordance with this section  
19 shall also be published as a notice of intended action as  
20 provided in section 17A.4.

21 Sec. 6. Section 5 of this Act, relating to emergency  
22 rules, being deemed of immediate importance, takes effect upon  
23 enactment.

24 EXPLANATION

25 This bill appropriates \$750,000 for fiscal year 1999-2000,  
26 and \$1.6 million thereafter to the department of education to  
27 reimburse school districts for employability skills  
28 assessments approved by the director of the department of  
29 education. The director is required to develop or identify  
30 appropriate employability skills assessment tools.

31 House File 2272, enacted in 1998, requires the state board  
32 of education to develop and adopt rules by July 1, 1999,  
33 incorporating accountability for student achievement into the  
34 standards and accreditation process described in Code section  
35 256.11. The rules are to include a core list of academic

1 indicators. To this list of indicators, this bill adds,  
2 beginning in fiscal year 2000-2001, a set of core academic  
3 indicators in employability skills in grades nine and 12.

4 To meet the July 1, 1999, deadline for rulemaking provided  
5 in the Code, the department is granted emergency rulemaking  
6 authority under the bill. This provision takes effect upon  
7 enactment.

8 This bill may include a state mandate as defined in Code  
9 section 25B.3. The bill provides that the appropriations made  
10 in this bill are intended to cover the costs of any state  
11 mandate included in the bill. The inclusion of this  
12 specification of state funding is intended to reinstate the  
13 requirement of political subdivisions to comply with any state  
14 mandates included in this bill.

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