

FEB 17 2000

EDUCATION

HOUSE FILE
BY MURPHY

2334

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

A BILL FOR

1 An Act providing for an alternative school time schedule pilot
 2 project, making an appropriation, and providing an effective
 3 date.

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

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HF 2334

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 256.25 ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL TIME
2 SCHEDULE -- PILOT PROJECT.

3 The department of education shall establish an alternative
4 school time schedule pilot project to evaluate the
5 effectiveness of offering an alternative time schedule for
6 students in grades nine through twelve. The pilot project
7 shall be conducted as follows:

8 1. School districts may submit an application to the
9 department for additional funding to offer an alternative time
10 schedule as an option in addition to the standard or regular
11 time schedule in a designated school within the school
12 district. For the purposes of this section, an alternative
13 time schedule shall refer to a school day which commences no
14 earlier than nine o'clock in the morning and ends no later
15 than five o'clock in the afternoon. A designated school shall
16 refer to a school located within the district with pupils in
17 grades nine through twelve enrolled, which in the opinion of
18 the school district can support the offering of both a
19 standard or regular school time schedule and an alternative
20 time schedule.

21 2. Pupils enrolled in grades nine through twelve at a
22 school selected for participation in the pilot project shall
23 have the option of attending school pursuant to the
24 alternative time schedule based upon criteria to be determined
25 by the administrative staff of the school, in consultation
26 with the school district board of directors and the
27 department. Permission to attend school pursuant to the
28 alternative time schedule may be contingent upon the
29 maintenance of a satisfactory grade point average, attendance
30 record, or disciplinary record.

31 3. Applications for the pilot project shall be submitted
32 to the department by August 1, 2000. The application shall
33 contain a plan regarding which school within the district
34 shall be designated for participation in the project, and how
35 the standard or regular school day schedule shall be adjusted

1 to facilitate the alternative time schedule in a manner which
2 ensures that required and elective courses remain available to
3 all pupils enrolled at the school. The application shall also
4 include an estimate of the amount of additional funding
5 necessary to compensate the school district for the increased
6 expenses of maintaining the designated school and providing
7 additional instruction to accommodate the alternative time
8 schedule. The department shall select two school districts
9 within which a designated school shall participate in the
10 project. One of the school districts selected shall have an
11 actual enrollment of five thousand or more pupils and the
12 other school district shall have an actual enrollment of under
13 two thousand pupils.

14 4. A school district which is selected for the pilot
15 project shall agree to commence the alternative time schedule
16 on the first day of the school year beginning in September
17 2000, unless another commencement date is specified in the
18 application and approved by the department. The department
19 shall submit a report to the general assembly by January 1,
20 2002, regarding the results of the pilot project, detailing
21 observed advantages and disadvantages to pupils, parents, the
22 designated school, and the school district resulting from the
23 offering of an alternative time schedule.

24 5. There shall be appropriated from the general fund of
25 the state to the department of education for the school budget
26 year beginning July 1, 2000, and ending June 30, 2001, an
27 amount sufficient to provide for the additional costs incurred
28 by school districts participating in the pilot project
29 attributable to the alternative time schedule. The amount
30 appropriated shall be based on the estimates submitted by the
31 school districts, as reviewed and adjusted by the department,
32 if the department determines an adjustment to be necessary,
33 and shall be paid to the school districts as supplemental aid
34 payments in the same manner as state aid payments are paid
35 pursuant to section 257.16. The additional funding received

1 shall be miscellaneous income to the district.

2 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act, being deemed of
3 immediate importance, takes effect upon enactment.

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EXPLANATION

5 This bill provides for an alternative school time schedule
6 pilot project to be established by the department of
7 education. The purpose of the project shall be to evaluate
8 the effectiveness of offering an alternative time schedule for
9 students in grades nine through 12. The bill provides that
10 school districts participating in the pilot project shall
11 select a designated school within the district to offer an
12 alternative time schedule as an option in addition to the
13 standard or regular time schedule. The bill provides that an
14 alternative time schedule refers to a school day which
15 commences no earlier than nine o'clock in the morning and ends
16 no later than five o'clock in the afternoon.

17 The bill provides that pupils attending the designated
18 school shall have the option of attending school pursuant to
19 the alternative time schedule based upon criteria to be
20 determined by the administrative staff of the school, in
21 consultation with the school district board of directors and
22 the department. The bill provides that applications for the
23 pilot project shall be submitted to the department by August
24 1, 2000. The bill provides that the application shall contain
25 a plan regarding which school within the district shall be
26 designated for participation in the project, facilitating the
27 alternative time schedule in a manner which ensures that
28 required and elective courses remain available to all pupils
29 enrolled at the school, and estimating the amount of
30 additional funding necessary to compensate the school district
31 for the increased expenses of maintaining the designated
32 school and providing additional instruction to accommodate the
33 alternative time schedule.

34 The bill provides that the department shall select two
35 school districts within which a designated school shall

1 participate in the project, one with an actual enrollment of
2 5,000 or more pupils, and the other with an actual enrollment
3 of under 2,000 pupils. A school district which is selected
4 for the pilot project shall agree to commence the alternative
5 time schedule on the first day of the school year beginning in
6 September 2000, unless another commencement date is specified
7 in the application and approved by the committee.

8 The bill provides that the department shall submit a report
9 to the general assembly by January 1, 2002, regarding the
10 results of the pilot project, detailing observed advantages
11 and disadvantages to pupils, parents, the designated school,
12 and the school district resulting from the offering of an
13 alternative time schedule.

14 The bill provides for an appropriation from the general
15 fund of the state to the department of education for the
16 school budget year beginning July 1, 2000, and ending June 30,
17 2001, of an amount sufficient to provide for the additional
18 costs incurred by school districts participating in the pilot
19 project attributable to the alternative time schedule.

20 The bill takes effect upon enactment.

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