

FEB 24 1999

EDUCATION

HOUSE FILE 366
BY RICHARDSON

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

A BILL FOR

1 An Act requiring ninth through twelfth grade students attending
2 accredited public and nonpublic schools to complete a half
3 unit of credit in Iowa history.

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

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HF 366

1 Section 1. Section 256.11, subsection 5, paragraph b, Code
2 1999, is amended to read as follows:

3 b. Five units of the social studies including instruction
4 in voting statutes and procedures, voter registration
5 requirements, the use of paper ballots and voting machines in
6 the election process, and the method of acquiring and casting
7 an absentee ballot. All students shall complete a minimum of
8 one-half unit of United States government, one-half unit of
9 Iowa history, and one unit of United States history. The one-
10 half unit of United States government shall include the voting
11 procedure as described in this lettered paragraph and section
12 280.9A. The government instruction shall also include a study
13 of the Constitution of the United States and the Bill of
14 Rights contained in the Constitution and an assessment of a
15 student's knowledge of the Constitution and the Bill of
16 Rights.

17 Sec. 2. STATE MANDATE FUNDING SPECIFIED. In accordance
18 with section 25B.2, subsection 3, the state cost of requiring
19 compliance with any state mandate included in this Act shall
20 be paid by a school district from state school foundation aid
21 received by the school district under section 257.16. This
22 specification of the payment of the state cost shall be deemed
23 to meet all the state funding-related requirements of section
24 25B.2, subsection 3, and no additional state funding shall be
25 necessary for the full implementation of this Act by and
26 enforcement of this Act against all affected school districts.

27 EXPLANATION

28 This bill requires all accredited public and nonpublic
29 schools in Iowa to include one-half unit of Iowa history in
30 the educational programs taught to ninth through 12th grade
31 students.

32 Current law requires that the educational program provided
33 by school districts and accredited nonpublic schools for
34 students in grades nine through 12 include five units of
35 social studies. As a component of that requirement, students

1 are currently obligated to complete a minimum of one-half unit
2 of United States government and one unit of United States
3 history.

4 This bill may include a state mandate as defined in Code
5 section 25B.3. The bill requires that the state cost of any
6 state mandate included in the bill be paid by a school
7 district from state school foundation aid received by the
8 school district under section 257.16. The specification is
9 deemed to constitute state compliance with any state mandate
10 funding-related requirements of Code section 25B.2. The
11 inclusion of this specification is intended to reinstate the
12 requirement of political subdivisions to comply with any state
13 mandates included in the bill.

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