

FEB 24 1999

EDUCATION

HOUSE FILE 374  
BY THOMAS

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

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to the establishment of a science education  
2 clearinghouse, and making an appropriation.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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*HF 374*

1 Section 1. SCIENCE EDUCATION CLEARINGHOUSE.

2 1. The department of education shall establish a science  
3 education clearinghouse to promote innovation, excellence, and  
4 collaboration with regard to science education in the state of  
5 Iowa.

6 2. The science education clearinghouse shall be  
7 established at a location to be determined by the department,  
8 with a primary goal of facilitating the collaboration of  
9 individuals who are science instructors, or interested in  
10 science education, thereby promoting the sharing,  
11 demonstration, and refinement of new and innovative ideas in  
12 science education. The science education clearinghouse shall  
13 consist of three primary components:

14 a. A science journal shall be edited, published, and  
15 distributed on a regular basis. Primary editorial  
16 supervision, publication, and the furnishing of space and  
17 supplies shall be coordinated as determined by the department,  
18 potentially utilizing a university facility and staff which  
19 expresses interest in housing and facilitating the project.  
20 The content of the journal shall focus on increasing student  
21 learning through activities and novel approaches to science  
22 topics. A majority of the journal articles shall be written  
23 for science teachers by science teachers. Each journal  
24 article shall be peer reviewed, and shall include a background  
25 section from the author on the underlying science of the  
26 topic. The journal shall include a science briefs feature  
27 section which shall be designed to assist teachers in keeping  
28 current with recent developments in science of relevance to  
29 classroom education. Editorial assistance shall be provided  
30 to prospective journal contributors and shall include format  
31 suggestions, refining ideas into manageable topics, and  
32 locating technical resources.

33 b. A series of workshops, based on and expanding upon  
34 featured articles in the journal, shall be conducted. The  
35 workshops shall consist of presentations by journal authors at

1 state or regional meetings, and in-depth, full-day seminars to  
2 be held when possible at the journal author's school. The  
3 objective of the presentations shall be to demonstrate a  
4 concept or idea presented in a journal article in a manner  
5 designed to encourage and facilitate application of the idea  
6 or concept by attendees in their own science classrooms.

7 c. An on-line electronic communication service,  
8 established and maintained in coordination with the science  
9 journal. The on-line service shall present journal contents  
10 in an on-line format, facilitate workshop registration, and  
11 foster journal article and workshop evaluation and feedback,  
12 and continued science education collaboration.

13 Sec. 2. SCIENCE EDUCATION CLEARINGHOUSE APPROPRIATION.

14 1. There is appropriated from the general fund of the  
15 state to the department of education for the fiscal year  
16 beginning July 1, 1999, and ending June 30, 2000, the amount  
17 of \$50,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, to  
18 establish the first year of the science education  
19 clearinghouse.

20 2. Beginning in the second year of the clearinghouse, the  
21 project is intended to be self-supporting, with financial  
22 support received through ongoing science journal  
23 subscriptions.

24 EXPLANATION

25 This bill provides for the establishment of a science  
26 education clearinghouse to promote innovation, excellence, and  
27 collaboration with regard to science education in the state of  
28 Iowa.

29 The bill provides that the clearinghouse will be  
30 established and administered by the department of education.  
31 The bill provides that the goal of the clearinghouse will be  
32 to facilitate the collaboration of individuals who are science  
33 instructors, or interested in science education, to promote  
34 the sharing, demonstration, and refinement of new and  
35 innovative ideas in science education. The bill provides that

1 the clearinghouse will consist of three main components. A  
2 science journal will be edited, published, and distributed as  
3 determined by the department, potentially utilizing the  
4 facilities and staff of a university expressing interest in  
5 the clearinghouse. Editorial supervision and publication  
6 services will also be provided. The content of the journal  
7 will focus on increasing student learning through activities  
8 and novel approaches to science topics. Most of the journal  
9 articles shall be written for science teachers by science  
10 teachers. A series of workshops, based on articles appearing  
11 in the journal, will be conducted by journal article authors  
12 with the objective of demonstrating a concept or idea  
13 presented in a journal article in a manner designed to  
14 encourage and facilitate application of the idea or concept by  
15 attendees in their own science classrooms. An on-line  
16 electronic communication service, established and maintained  
17 in coordination with the science journal, would present  
18 journal contents in an on-line format, facilitate workshop  
19 registration, and foster journal article and workshop  
20 evaluation and feedback, and continued science education  
21 collaboration.

22 The bill provides for an appropriation from the general  
23 fund of the state to the department of education for the  
24 fiscal year beginning July 1, 1999, of \$50,000, or so much  
25 thereof as may be necessary, to establish the first year of  
26 the science education clearinghouse. Subsequent years are  
27 envisioned to be self-supporting through journal  
28 subscriptions.

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