

MAR 2 1999

EDUCATION

HOUSE FILE  
BY FOEGE

**449**

(COMPANION TO LSB 2620SS  
BY DVORSKY)

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

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act requiring practitioner preparation program students and  
2 licensed teachers to successfully complete instruction  
3 relating to the teaching of students with disabilities.  
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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**HF 449**

1 Section 1. Section 256.16, Code 1999, is amended to read  
2 as follows:

3 256.16 SPECIFIC CRITERIA FOR TEACHER PREPARATION AND  
4 CERTAIN EDUCATORS.

5 1. Pursuant to section 256.7, subsection 5, the state  
6 board shall adopt rules requiring all higher education  
7 institutions providing practitioner preparation to include in  
8 the professional education program, preparation that  
9 ~~contributes to education of students with disabilities and~~  
10 ~~students who are gifted and talented,~~ which must be  
11 successfully completed before graduation from the practitioner  
12 preparation program, and includes the following:

13 a. Instruction that contributes to the education of  
14 students who are gifted and talented.

15 b. Commencing with the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2000,  
16 instruction that contributes to the education of students with  
17 disabilities, including knowledge of the laws impacting the  
18 education of students with disabilities, including section 504  
19 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1991 and the federal  
20 Individuals with Disabilities Act; knowledge about, and  
21 teaching methods to respond to, the learning styles of  
22 students with disabilities and particular mental or physical  
23 challenges and barriers affecting the education of students  
24 with disabilities; information about resources available to  
25 facilitate the education of students with disabilities in the  
26 regular classroom, including but not limited to methods for  
27 utilizing resources such as other students, parents, and  
28 government and community agencies; and knowledge or assistive  
29 technology and other available accommodations for students  
30 with disabilities.

31 2. A person initially applying for a license shall  
32 successfully complete a professional education program  
33 containing the subject matter specified in this section,  
34 before the initial action by the board of educational  
35 examiners takes place.

1     Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 272.21 COMMENDATION OF PROFESSIONAL  
2 IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM.

3     1. The board of educational examiners shall develop and  
4 implement a commendation of professional improvement program  
5 to motivate licensed, practicing teachers to continue to  
6 develop their professional competencies and improve their  
7 abilities to be effective with all students in the classroom,  
8 and to recognize and reward teachers who complete a minimum  
9 level of additional core professional development coursework.

10    2. The board shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A for  
11 the commendation of professional improvement program, which  
12 shall include, but not be limited to, the establishment of an  
13 application process a teacher shall complete in order to  
14 receive a commendation, issuance of a commendation of  
15 professional improvement to licensed, practicing teachers who  
16 complete ten semester hours of coursework within a time to be  
17 specified by rule, and approval of coursework an individual  
18 shall successfully complete to be eligible for a commendation  
19 of professional improvement, including, but not limited to,  
20 courses in classroom management and courses in the teacher's  
21 content area of specialization.

22    3. The board shall work with the department of education,  
23 institutions of higher education with approved practitioner  
24 preparation programs, and community colleges, and area  
25 education agencies offering approved professional development  
26 programs to ensure that the courses required under rules  
27 adopted pursuant to this section are offered throughout the  
28 state at convenient times and at a reasonable cost.

29    4. If the general assembly appropriates moneys for  
30 commendation awards, a commendation of professional  
31 improvement awards fund is established in the office of  
32 treasurer of state to be administered by the department.  
33 Moneys appropriated by the general assembly for deposit in the  
34 fund shall be expended as follows:

35    a. To licensed, practicing teachers who successfully

1 complete coursework as required by the board and who apply for  
2 and receive a commendation, the board shall pay a commendation  
3 of professional improvement award in the amount of three  
4 hundred dollars for tuition reimbursement.

5 b. To the attendance center in the school district that  
6 employs one or more teachers approved by the board to receive  
7 an award under paragraph "a", the board shall pay a  
8 commendation of professional improvement award in the amount  
9 of two hundred dollars for each teacher employed at the  
10 attendance center who qualifies for an award during the fiscal  
11 year for which the award moneys were appropriated. Payments  
12 to attendance centers shall be made annually on or about June  
13 15. Moneys received by an attendance center are miscellaneous  
14 income and shall be used to purchase materials, equipment, or  
15 supplies for the classroom used by the teacher or teachers  
16 employed at the attendance center who received an award under  
17 paragraph "a".

18 5. Payment for awards shall be made only upon board  
19 approval of an application. If the amount appropriated for  
20 purposes of this section is insufficient to make the awards  
21 payments as provided under subsection 4, the board shall  
22 prorate the payments on the basis of the amount appropriated.

23 6. The treasurer of state shall act as custodian of the  
24 commendation of professional improvement awards fund and may  
25 invest the moneys deposited in the fund. The director of  
26 revenue and finance shall issue warrants upon the fund  
27 pursuant to the order of the board and such warrants shall be  
28 paid from the fund by the treasurer of state. Notwithstanding  
29 section 8.33, unencumbered or unobligated moneys remaining in  
30 the fund on June 30 of the fiscal year for which the funds  
31 were appropriated shall not revert but shall be available for  
32 subsequent fiscal years for the purposes of this section.  
33 Notwithstanding section 12C.7, subsection 2, interest or  
34 earnings on moneys deposited in the fund shall be credited to  
35 the fund.

## 1 EXPLANATION

2 This bill requires the state board of education to provide  
3 for the inclusion of coursework specific to the education of  
4 students with disabilities in practitioner preparation  
5 programs. It also creates a commendation of professional  
6 improvement program, award, and fund.

7 The bill requires that students attending approved  
8 practitioner preparation programs must successfully complete  
9 preparation that includes knowledge of the laws impacting the  
10 education of students with disabilities, including section 504  
11 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1991 and the federal  
12 Individuals with Disabilities Act; knowledge about, and  
13 teaching methods to respond to, the learning styles of  
14 students with disabilities and particular mental or physical  
15 challenges and barriers affecting the education of students  
16 with disabilities; information about resources available to  
17 facilitate the education of students with disabilities in the  
18 regular classroom, including methods for utilizing resources  
19 such as other students, parents, and government and community  
20 agencies; and knowledge or assistive technology and other  
21 available accommodations for students with disabilities.

22 The bill also directs the board of educational examiners to  
23 develop and implement a commendation of professional  
24 improvement program to motivate licensed, practicing teachers  
25 to continue to develop their professional competencies and  
26 improve their abilities to be effective with all students in  
27 the classroom, and to recognize and reward teachers who  
28 complete a minimum level of additional core professional  
29 development coursework.

30 To receive a commendation, a licensed, practicing teacher  
31 must complete 10 semester hours of coursework in classroom  
32 management and in the teacher's content area of specialization  
33 within a time to be specified by the board, and must make  
34 application to the board.

35 The board is directed to work with the department of

1 education, institutions of higher education with approved  
2 practitioner preparation programs, and community colleges, and  
3 area education agencies offering approved professional  
4 development programs to ensure that courses required under  
5 rules adopted by the board are offered throughout the state at  
6 convenient times and at a reasonable cost.

7     If the general assembly appropriates moneys for  
8 commendation awards, the bill provides for the payment of \$300  
9 for tuition reimbursement to teachers who receive board  
10 approval, and \$200 to the attendance center in the school  
11 district that employs the teacher. Moneys received by an  
12 attendance center are to be used to purchase materials,  
13 equipment, or supplies for the classroom used by the teacher  
14 receiving a commendation award.

15     If the amount appropriated for awards under the program is  
16 insufficient to make the full awards payments, the board is  
17 authorized to prorate the payments.

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