

MAR 15 1999

APPROPRIATIONS

HOUSE FILE 685

BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 364)

Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_

Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

A BILL FOR

1 An Act making a standing appropriation to the school budget  
2 review committee to grant transportation assistance aid to  
3 certain school districts.

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

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HF 685

1 Section 1. Section 257.31, subsection 17, Code 1999, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 17. a. If a district's average transportation costs per  
4 pupil exceed the state average transportation costs per pupil  
5 determined under paragraph "c" by one hundred fifty percent,  
6 the committee may grant transportation assistance aid to the  
7 district pursuant to rules adopted by the committee. The  
8 committee shall grant such assistance to an eligible district  
9 in an amount up to, but not exceeding, fifty cents of  
10 transportation assistance for each dollar by which the  
11 district's average transportation costs per pupil exceed the  
12 state average transportation costs per pupil determined under  
13 paragraph "c". Such aid shall be miscellaneous income and  
14 shall not be included in district cost.

15 b. To be eligible for transportation assistance aid, a  
16 school district shall annually certify its actual cost for all  
17 children transported in all school buses not later than July  
18 31 after each school year on forms prescribed by the  
19 committee.

20 c. A district's average transportation costs per pupil  
21 shall be determined by dividing the district's actual cost for  
22 all children transported in all school buses for a school year  
23 pursuant to section 285.1, subsection 12, less the amount  
24 received for transporting nonpublic school pupils under  
25 section 285.1, by the district's actual enrollment for the  
26 school year excluding the shared-time enrollment for the  
27 school year as defined in section 257.6. The state average  
28 transportation costs per pupil shall be determined by dividing  
29 the total actual costs for all children transported in all  
30 districts for a school year, by the total of all districts'  
31 actual enrollments for the school year.

32 d. There is appropriated from the general fund of the  
33 state to the committee, for each fiscal year, the sum of four  
34 million dollars for transportation assistance aid to school  
35 districts as provided in this subsection. Funds transferred

1 to the committee in accordance with section 321.34, subsection  
2 22, are also appropriated to the committee and may be expended  
3 for the purposes of ~~the committee, as described in this~~  
4 section this subsection. However, ~~highest priority shall be~~  
5 ~~given to districts that meet the conditions described in this~~  
6 ~~subsection~~. Notwithstanding any other provision of the Code,  
7 unencumbered or unobligated funds appropriated to the  
8 committee pursuant to this paragraph or transferred to the  
9 committee pursuant to section 321.34, subsection 22, remaining  
10 on June 30 of the fiscal year for which the funds were  
11 appropriated or transferred, shall not revert but shall be  
12 available for expenditure for the purposes of this subsection  
13 in subsequent fiscal years.

14 e. The committee shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A  
15 for granting transportation assistance aid and for otherwise  
16 administering this subsection.

17 EXPLANATION

18 This bill appropriates \$4 million each year beginning July  
19 1, 1999, to the school budget review committee to pay  
20 transportation assistance aid to school districts which have  
21 average transportation costs per pupil that exceed the state  
22 average transportation costs per pupil by 150 percent. The  
23 committee is to grant such assistance to eligible districts in  
24 an amount up to 50 cents of assistance for each dollar by  
25 which the district's average transportation costs per pupil  
26 exceed the state average transportation costs per pupil.  
27 Rules relating to granting such aid are to be adopted by the  
28 committee pursuant to chapter 17A. Currently, the school  
29 budget review committee receives funds for the transportation  
30 assistance aid from fees for special motor vehicle  
31 registration plates with education emblems pursuant to Code  
32 section 321.34.

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