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SENATE FILE 2383

BY JUDGE, BLACK, BOLKCOM, CONNOLLY,  
DEARDEN, DELUHERY, DVORSKY, FINK,  
FLYNN, FRAISE, HARPER, KIBBIE,  
McCOY, SHEARER, SOUKUP, GRONSTAL,  
and SZYMONIAK

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

A BILL FOR

1 An Act appropriating moneys for and relating to fire and health  
2 safety grants for eligible school districts.

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

SF 2383  
APPROPRIATIONS

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1 Section 1. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION. There is appropriated  
2 from the rebuild Iowa infrastructure fund to the department of  
3 education for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2000, and  
4 ending June 30, 2001, the following amount, or so much thereof  
5 as is necessary, to be used for the purpose designated:

6 For fire and health safety grants for eligible school  
7 districts:  
8 ..... \$ 3,400,000

9 From the funds appropriated in this section, the sum of  
10 \$100,000 may be allocated for use by the state fire marshal  
11 for a collection and reporting system of fire code violations.

12 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 422E.6 FIRE AND HEALTH SAFETY  
13 GRANTS.

14 1. If the general assembly appropriates moneys for  
15 purposes of fire and health safety grants for eligible school  
16 districts, the department of education shall establish a fire  
17 and health safety task force and shall award fire and health  
18 safety grants based upon the recommendations of the task  
19 force.

20 2. Voting members of the fire and health safety task force  
21 shall include the members of the school budget review  
22 committee and the state fire marshal. Nonvoting members shall  
23 be appointed by the director of the department of education,  
24 in consultation with the state fire marshal, and shall include  
25 representatives from the education community and individuals  
26 knowledgeable about school infrastructure and construction  
27 issues. Nonvoting members may be eligible to receive per diem  
28 and expenses as provided in section 7E.6. The task force  
29 shall develop an equitable ranking system based upon the  
30 following criteria:

- 31 a. The severity of the deficiencies.
- 32 b. The ability of the district to finance fire and health  
33 safety repairs.
- 34 c. The percentage of at-risk students enrolled in the  
35 district.

1 d. The history of the district's effort to address fire  
2 and health safety repair issues.

3 The task force shall give primary consideration to the  
4 severity of the deficiencies. The task force shall review  
5 applications submitted to the department of education and, if  
6 necessary, conduct site visits to determine final eligibility  
7 and identify inconsistencies in state and local fire and  
8 building inspection standards.

9 3. A school district is eligible for a grant under this  
10 section if the district agrees to provide matching funds in  
11 the amount of twenty-five cents for every dollar of state fire  
12 and health safety grant moneys received and if either of the  
13 following occurs:

14 a. The school district receives an order or citation from  
15 the state fire marshal or local fire department officials for  
16 one or more fire safety or state building code violations in a  
17 school facility used for instructional purposes.

18 b. A school facility used for instructional purposes is  
19 operating with significant fire or health safety deficiencies  
20 in the opinion of the state fire marshal or local fire or  
21 building department officials.

22 4. Each school district that wishes to receive a fire and  
23 health safety grant shall submit an application to the  
24 department of education, on forms prescribed by the  
25 department, and shall include with the application a written  
26 plan to remedy fire or health safety defects within the time  
27 specified in the plan, a plan budget, and a five-year history  
28 of infrastructure repairs made within the district.

29 5. The department of education shall ensure that grant  
30 projects are consistent with the Americans with Disabilities  
31 Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. § 12101 et seq., and section 504 of the  
32 federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The department of  
33 education shall award grants of not more than two hundred  
34 fifty thousand dollars annually to districts in the following  
35 three size categories:

1 a. Small school districts with enrollments of less than  
2 two thousand students.

3 b. Medium school districts with enrollments of not less  
4 than two thousand or more than four thousand nine hundred  
5 ninety-nine students.

6 c. Large school districts with enrollments of five  
7 thousand students or more.

8 To the extent possible, after consideration of the severity  
9 of the deficiencies of all applicant school districts, funding  
10 shall be awarded equitably among the three size categories.

11 6. The department of education shall prepare and submit a  
12 report of the activities and expenditures funded under this  
13 section to the chairpersons and ranking members of the  
14 standing education committees and the joint subcommittees on  
15 education appropriations, and the legislative fiscal bureau,  
16 by December 1, 2001. The state fire marshal shall submit to  
17 the department of education for inclusion in the report an  
18 estimate of the percentage of schools left with serious fire  
19 or state building code violations.

20 EXPLANATION

21 This bill appropriates \$3.4 million from the rebuild Iowa  
22 infrastructure fund to the department of education for fiscal  
23 year 2000-2001, for fire and health safety grants for eligible  
24 school districts. The bill directs the department to award  
25 fire and health safety grants based upon the recommendations  
26 of the fire and health safety task force. The task force is  
27 composed of voting and nonvoting members.

28 Nonvoting members are to be appointed by the director of  
29 the department of education, in consultation with the state  
30 fire marshal and shall include representatives from the  
31 education community and individuals knowledgeable about school  
32 infrastructure and construction issues. Voting members  
33 include the members of the school budget review committee and  
34 the state fire marshal.

35 The task force is charged with developing grant criteria

1 and an equitable ranking system, with reviewing the  
2 applications submitted to the department and, if necessary,  
3 with conducting site visits to determine final eligibility and  
4 identify inconsistencies in state and local fire and building  
5 inspection standards. The bill lists the criteria upon which  
6 the task force is to base its recommendations.

7 School districts are eligible for a grant if they agree to  
8 provide matching funds in the amount of \$.25 on each dollar of  
9 grant moneys and if either the school district receives an  
10 order or citation from the state fire marshal or local fire  
11 department officials for one or more fire safety or state  
12 building code violations in a school facility used for  
13 instructional purposes; or a school facility used for  
14 instructional purposes is operating with significant fire or  
15 health safety deficiencies in the opinion of the state fire  
16 marshal or local fire or building department officials.

17 Each school district that wishes to receive a fire and  
18 health safety grant must submit an application to the  
19 department that includes a written plan to remedy fire or  
20 health safety defects within a time specified in the plan, a  
21 plan budget, and a five-year history of infrastructure repairs  
22 made within the district.

23 The department must ensure that grant projects are  
24 consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990,  
25 42 U.S.C. § 12101 et seq., and section 504 of the federal  
26 Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

27 Grants are awarded to small, medium, and large districts  
28 with the awards capped at \$250,000.

29 The department is required to submit a report of the  
30 activities and expenditures funded to the general assembly's  
31 education committees and the legislative fiscal bureau by  
32 December 1, 2001. The state fire marshal must submit to the  
33 department of education for inclusion in the report an  
34 estimate of the percentage of schools left with serious fire  
35 or state building code violations.