

FILED MAR 8 1999

SENATE FILE 325
BY SHEARER

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

A BILL FOR

1 An Act providing for the elimination of special education
2 deficits incurred by school districts, making an
3 appropriation, and including an effective date and
4 applicability provision.

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

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SF 325
EDUCATION

1 Section 1. There is appropriated from the general fund of
2 the state to the department of education for the fiscal year
3 beginning July 1, 1999, and ending June 30, 2000, the
4 following amount, or so much thereof as is necessary, to be
5 used for the purpose designated:

6 For the elimination of certified negative balances in
7 school district funds raised for special education instruction
8 programs for the school budget year beginning July 1, 1998,
9 and ending June 30, 1999:

10 \$16,500,000

11 Sec. 2. The funds appropriated in section 1 of this Act
12 shall be allocated by the department to the school budget
13 review committee for distribution to school districts for
14 which the committee, pursuant to section 257.31, subsection
15 14, has certified to the director of the department of
16 management a negative balance of funds for the school budget
17 year beginning July 1, 1998, and ending June 30, 1999. The
18 funds appropriated shall be considered supplemental aid and
19 added to the supplemental aid otherwise payable and
20 distributed pursuant to section 257.31, subsection 14,
21 paragraph "b". For purposes of the funds allocated pursuant
22 to this Act, the supplemental aid amount shall be equal to a
23 school district's negative balance.

24 Sec. 3. Pursuant to section 257.31, subsection 12, the
25 school budget review committee within 30 days of the effective
26 date of this section shall review the special education
27 weighting plan in effect for the school budget year beginning
28 July 1, 1999, and ending June 30, 2000, and adjust the
29 weighting levels to eliminate special education negative
30 balance projections. In reviewing the weighting plan, the
31 committee shall utilize the most recent information available
32 regarding special education instruction program funding
33 balances and the average costs of providing instruction for
34 children requiring special education in the categories of the
35 weighting plan.

1 Sec. 4. Section 3 of this Act, being deemed of immediate
2 importance, takes effect upon enactment and applies to special
3 education funding calculations for the school budget year
4 beginning on July 1, 1999.

5 EXPLANATION

6 This bill appropriates \$16.5 million from the general fund
7 of the state to the department of education for the fiscal
8 year beginning July 1, 1999, and ending June 30, 2000. The
9 appropriated funds shall be allocated by the department to the
10 school budget review committee for distribution to school
11 districts which incurred a negative balance of funds for
12 special education instruction for the school budget year
13 beginning July 1, 1998, and ending June 30, 1999, and shall be
14 considered supplemental aid distributed pursuant to Code
15 section 257.31, subsection 14, paragraph "b".

16 The bill additionally directs the school budget review
17 committee, within 30 days of the effective date of this
18 portion of the bill, to review the special education weighting
19 plan in effect for the school budget year beginning July 1,
20 1999, and ending June 30, 2000, and to adjust the weighting
21 levels to eliminate special education negative balances
22 projected for that school budget year, utilizing the most
23 recent information available regarding special education
24 instruction program funding balances and costs. The bill
25 would take effect upon enactment with regard to these special
26 education weighting level review and adjustment provisions.

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