

SEP 6 2001

EDUCATION

HOUSE FILE 512

BY MASCHER

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

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the establishment of an environmental
2 education task force, providing for related matters, and
3 making an appropriation.

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

HF 512

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1 Section 1. ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM FUNDING. There
2 is appropriated from the environment first fund to the
3 department of education for the fiscal year beginning July 1,
4 2001, and ending June 30, 2002, the following amount, or so
5 much thereof as is necessary, to be used for the purpose
6 designated:

7 For the environmental education program established
8 pursuant to this section and to sections 256.24 and 256.25:
9 \$ 1,000,000

10 1. From the funds appropriated in this section, \$900,000
11 shall be allocated to school districts in the proportion that
12 the basic enrollment of a district bears to the sum of the
13 basic enrollments of all school districts in the state for the
14 budget year. School districts that receive moneys under this
15 section shall use the moneys to provide a three-to-five-day
16 residential environmental education experience for grades four
17 through six and grades nine through twelve.

18 2. From the funds appropriated in this section, \$100,000
19 shall be used by the department of education for the
20 administrative costs of implementing sections 256.24 and
21 256.25, and to do the following:

22 a. Encourage schools to include in their comprehensive
23 school improvement plans energy efficiency measures designed
24 to reduce energy consumption and costs, improve the working
25 and classroom environment of school facilities, and reduce the
26 environmental impacts of school operations; outdoor
27 classrooms; transdisciplinary curricula; and community
28 outreach.

29 b. Hold a conference of the state's practitioner
30 preparation program institutions to explore the need to infuse
31 environmental education into the course content for all
32 kindergarten through grade twelve preservice teachers.

33 c. Maintain and update an environmental education resource
34 directory that is accessible to every teacher, conservation
35 organization, and environmental education practitioner in the

1 state.

2 d. Provide school districts and accredited nonpublic
3 schools with instruction specifying ways to implement
4 research-based best environmental education practices.

5 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 256.24 IOWA ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
6 TASK FORCE ESTABLISHED.

7 1. An Iowa environmental education task force is
8 established and is attached for administrative purposes to the
9 department of education.

10 2. The task force is composed of twenty-five members, who
11 shall be appointed as follows:

12 a. The directors of the departments of education,
13 agriculture and land stewardship, economic development,
14 natural resources, and transportation shall each appoint a
15 member to represent their respective departments.

16 b. The executive director of the state board of regents
17 shall appoint a member to represent the state board.

18 c. The governor shall appoint at least one member to
19 represent each of the following:

20 (1) Soil and water conservation districts and watershed
21 groups.

22 (2) The Iowa natural resource conservation service.

23 (3) The Iowa cooperative extension service in agriculture
24 and home economics.

25 (4) The Iowa conservation education council.

26 (5) The Iowa environmental council.

27 (6) County conservation boards.

28 (7) City chambers of commerce.

29 (8) Local government.

30 (9) Local service organizations.

31 (10) School districts.

32 (11) Commodity groups.

33 (12) Local nonprofit organizations.

34 (13) Leadership groups.

35 (14) Area education agencies.

1 3. The task force members representing state departments
2 and the state board of regents shall be voting members of the
3 commission. The remaining members of the task force shall
4 serve as nonvoting, advisory members.

5 4. The nonvoting task force members shall be appointed for
6 staggered terms of three years each, beginning and ending as
7 provided in section 69.19. Vacancies shall be filled in the
8 same manner as the original appointments were made.

9 5. Appointments to the task force are subject to the
10 requirements of sections 69.16 and 69.16A.

11 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. 256.25 IOWA ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
12 TASK FORCE -- DUTIES.

13 The Iowa environmental education task force shall do all of
14 the following:

15 1. Conduct biennially a statewide survey to determine the
16 current level of environmental literacy of Iowa citizens and
17 educators. The task force may enter into a contract with an
18 impartial third party to conduct the survey.

19 2. Develop a community training program for citizens to
20 serve as both proactive and responsive resource teams as
21 urgent environmental matters occur.

22 3. Develop a statewide marketing campaign to promote
23 environmental education to organizations and citizens across
24 the state.

25 4. Develop a natural area inventory for each county for
26 distribution throughout the state by the appropriate state
27 agencies.

28 5. Identify regional environmental outreach educators to
29 provide educational materials and programs about soil, air,
30 and habitat resources to local communities through personal
31 contact and other educational methods.

32 6. Provide a minimum of one regional wild places public
33 management field day per year to be cosponsored by state
34 agencies and public and private nonprofit organizations with
35 land management responsibilities.

1 required to be distributed to school districts to provide a
2 three-to-five-day residential environmental education
3 experience for grades 4 through 6 and 9 through 12. The
4 remaining \$100,000 is allocated to the department for
5 administration of the task force and efforts by the department
6 to encourage schools to include energy efficiency measures,
7 outdoor classrooms, transdisciplinary curricula, and community
8 outreach in their comprehensive school improvement plans; hold
9 a conference to explore the need to infuse environmental
10 education into the course content for all K-12 preservice
11 teachers; maintain and update an environmental education
12 resource directory; and provide schools with instruction
13 specifying ways to implement research-based best environmental
14 education practices.

15 The task force established by the bill is composed of six
16 voting and 19 nonvoting, advisory members. The voting members
17 are representatives of the departments of education,
18 agriculture and land stewardship, economic development,
19 natural resources, and transportation, and of the state board
20 of regents. The bill lists the environmental and community
21 interests that the nonvoting, advisory members are appointed
22 by the governor to represent during their staggered three-year
23 terms.

24 The bill requires the task force to conduct a statewide
25 survey to determine the current level of environmental
26 literacy of Iowa citizens and educators, develop a community
27 training program for citizens to serve as resource teams,
28 develop a statewide marketing campaign to promote
29 environmental education, develop a natural area inventory for
30 each county, identify regional environmental outreach
31 educators to provide information to local communities, provide
32 at least one regional wild places public management field day
33 per year, form an environmental education resource
34 subcommittee, develop environmental education service learning
35 resources and opportunities for schools, develop examples of

1 processes for integrating and creating grade level benchmarks
2 and assessment tools for environmental education, and to form
3 a subcommittee to develop a plan to recommend ways to
4 incorporate environmental education in practitioner
5 preparation coursework.

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