

JAN 19 2001
EDUCATION

HOUSE FILE 71
BY MURPHY

Passed House, Date _____ Passed Senate, Date _____

Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____

Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the development and implementation of a
2 citizenship grade by the board of directors of a school
3 district.

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

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HC-71

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 279.59 CITIZENSHIP GRADE.

2 1. The board of directors of a school district shall
3 prescribe procedures for the establishment and implementation
4 of a citizenship grade for students enrolled in grades seven
5 through twelve, in a manner that makes evident the connection
6 between academic achievement, attitude, and individual
7 responsibility. The board shall appoint an advisory committee
8 to assist the board in determining a set of behavioral
9 standards by which students will be assessed and graded. The
10 members of the advisory committee shall include, but shall not
11 be limited to, licensed practitioners, parents, and a
12 representative from the local area education agency. The
13 board shall adopt, giving due consideration to the
14 recommendations of the advisory committee, a set of standards
15 to be used to assess and grade a student's behavior. The
16 board shall periodically examine the efficacy of the
17 citizenship grade, and make adjustments as needed in
18 accordance with this section.

19 2. Commencing with the school year beginning July 1, 2002,
20 the board of directors of a school district shall provide for
21 the assessment of a student's behavior against the standards
22 adopted by the board pursuant to subsection 1, and shall
23 include the behavioral assessment in the student's report
24 card, portfolio, or other periodic assessment of the student's
25 achievement.

26 Sec. 2. STATE MANDATE FUNDING SPECIFIED. In accordance
27 with section 25B.2, subsection 3, the state cost of requiring
28 compliance with any state mandate included in this Act shall
29 be paid by a school district from state school foundation aid
30 received by the school district under section 257.16. This
31 specification of the payment of the state cost shall be deemed
32 to meet all the state funding-related requirements of section
33 25B.2, subsection 3, and no additional state funding shall be
34 necessary for the full implementation of this Act by and
35 enforcement of this Act against all affected school districts.

EXPLANATION

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This bill directs school district boards of directors to prescribe procedures for the establishment and implementation of a citizenship grade for students enrolled in grades 7 through 12.

The boards are required to appoint an advisory committee to assist in determining a set of behavioral standards by which students will be assessed and graded. Advisory committee members are to include licensed practitioners, parents, and a representative from the local area education agency.

The board is directed to adopt a set of standards for assessing and grading a student's behavior and must periodically examine the efficacy of the citizenship grade and make adjustments as needed.

Commencing with the school year beginning July 1, 2002, the board must assess each student's behavior against the standards and must include the assessment in the student's report card, portfolio, or other periodic assessment of the student's achievement.

This bill may include a state mandate as defined in Code section 25B.3. The bill requires that the state cost of any state mandate included in the bill be paid by a school district from state school foundation aid received by the school district under Code section 257.16.