

APR 24 2003
EDUCATION

HOUSE FILE 693
BY GIPP and MYERS

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

A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing a new century learning technology initiative,
2 commission, and fund, and providing an effective date and for
3 contingent implementation.

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

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HF-693

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 256G.1 NEW CENTURY LEARNING
2 TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE -- PURPOSE AND DEFINITIONS -- CONTINGENT
3 IMPLEMENTATION.

4 1. A new century learning technology initiative is
5 established to enable the full integration of wireless
6 learning technology into teaching and learning for the state's
7 elementary and secondary students. The purpose of the
8 initiative includes motivating and assisting students to
9 achieve at high levels and preparing them to become the
10 knowledge workers of the twenty-first century workforce by
11 providing them with the information literacy skills necessary
12 to compete in the global market. The initial goal of the
13 initiative is to ensure one-to-one access to and ubiquitous
14 use of a fully configured laptop computer for all seventh and
15 eighth grade students and educators in the public and
16 accredited nonpublic schools in Iowa. The goal shall be
17 implemented through a public-private partnership created to
18 provide a total solutions learning technology package that
19 shall include, but shall not be limited to, hardware,
20 software, professional development, services and support, and
21 shall be managed by a single point of contact for the overall
22 implementation. Subsequent to the success of the initial
23 goal, it is the ultimate goal of the initiative to ensure one-
24 to-one access to and ubiquitous use of a fully configured
25 laptop computer in all grades for students and educators in
26 Iowa.

27 2. For purposes of this chapter, unless the context
28 clearly indicates otherwise:

29 a. "Alternative equivalent value factor" means the ratio
30 of funding provided to school administrative units that choose
31 to provide an alternative equivalent learning technology plan
32 that meets the guiding principles described in section 256G.4,
33 subsection 3.

34 b. "Commission" means the new century learning technology
35 commission created by section 256G.6.

1 c. "Fund" means the new century learning technology fund
2 created by section 256G.2.

3 d. "Plan" or "learning technology plan" means the new
4 century learning technology plan developed by the commission
5 in accordance with section 256G.4.

6 e. "State board" means the state board of education.

7 3. The provisions of this chapter shall be implemented
8 only if the general assembly appropriates money for the
9 purposes of a new century learning technology initiative,
10 commission, and fund, and for a public-private partnership in
11 accordance with this chapter.

12 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 256G.2 FUND.

13 1. A new century learning technology fund is created and
14 established as a separate and distinct fund in the state
15 treasury. The moneys in the fund are appropriated to the new
16 century learning technology commission for purposes of the new
17 century learning technology initiative established pursuant to
18 this chapter. Moneys in the fund shall not be subject to
19 appropriation for any other purpose by the general assembly,
20 but shall be used only for the purposes of the new century
21 learning technology fund. The treasurer of state shall act as
22 custodian of the fund and disburse moneys contained in the
23 fund as directed by the commission. The fund shall be managed
24 and governed in a manner that provides for the financially
25 sustainable support, use, and integration of learning
26 technology in Iowa schools through a public-private
27 partnership as provided in section 256G.3. The fund shall be
28 administered by the commission, which shall make expenditures
29 from the fund consistent with the purposes of the initiative
30 without further appropriation. However, an applicant under
31 the initiative shall not receive more than seventy-five
32 million dollars in financial assistance from the fund.

33 2. Revenue for the fund shall include, but is not limited
34 to, moneys in the form of a devise, gift, bequest, donation,
35 federal or other grant, reimbursement, repayment, judgment,

1 transfer, payment, or appropriation from any source intended
2 to be used for the purposes of the fund.

3 3. Moneys in the fund may be used for necessary audit
4 services, legal expenses, investment management fees and
5 services, and general administrative expenses related to the
6 management and administration of the initiative.

7 4. Moneys in the fund are not subject to section 8.33.
8 Notwithstanding section 12C.7, subsection 2, interest or
9 earnings on moneys in the fund shall be credited to the fund.

10 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. 256G.3 PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP.

11 A public-private partnership shall be established to
12 implement the initiative. The public-private partnership
13 shall be selected by the commission through a request for
14 proposals process for a total solutions learning technology
15 package that includes, but is not limited to, hardware,
16 software, professional development, and service and support,
17 and shall be managed by a single point of contact responsible
18 for the overall implementation. The proposal selected by the
19 commission shall achieve significant efficiencies and
20 economies of scale, be interoperable with existing
21 technologies, and be consistent with the state's economic
22 development and education policies. The private provider
23 selected in the request for proposals process to partner with
24 the state must possess all of the following:

25 1. Experience in the development and successful
26 implementation of large-scale, school-based wireless
27 technology projects.

28 2. Proven technical ability to deliver a total solutions
29 package of learning technology for elementary and secondary
30 students and teachers.

31 3. Demonstrated financial capability and long-term
32 stability to partner with the state over the term of the
33 private provider contract.

34 4. Proven results-based education solutions to increase
35 student achievement and advance professional development for

1 teachers.

2 5. Nationally recognized expertise, experience, and
3 capabilities in education practice and evaluation methods.

4 Sec. 4. NEW SECTION. 256G.4 ANNUAL PLAN.

5 1. ANNUAL PLAN. The commission shall develop a new
6 century learning technology plan to achieve the goal of
7 preparing students for an economy that is increasingly
8 dependent on technology and innovation. The commission shall
9 review the plan annually and shall amend the plan as
10 necessary.

11 2. PLAN CONSIDERATIONS. The plan shall include, but is
12 not limited to, consideration of the following:

13 a. The appropriate structure, governance, and oversight of
14 the initiative.

15 b. The current use of wireless learning technology in
16 classrooms by students and teachers in the state.

17 c. The professional development needed to integrate
18 wireless learning technology into classroom teaching.

19 d. Assessment of the strategy and goals for improving and
20 equalizing access to and the use of wireless learning
21 technology in all schools.

22 e. Implementation of the plan in the phases as specified,
23 at a minimum, in subsection 5.

24 f. Strategies that coordinate the learning technology in
25 kindergarten through grade twelve with the initiatives and
26 resources of the department of education, the Iowa
27 communications network, area education agencies, higher
28 education institutions providing practitioner preparation
29 programs approved by the department of education, and other
30 accredited postsecondary institutions in the state.

31 g. Data tracking and assessment of the progress in
32 implementing the goals of the initiative and the plan.

33 h. Strategies that establish a public-private partnership
34 between state government and a private business with a proven
35 record of success in undertakings of similar focus and size.

1 3. GUIDING PRINCIPLES. The plan shall be consistent with
2 the following guiding principles:

3 a. EQUITY. The plan shall promote equal opportunity for
4 and provide meaningful access to wireless learning technology
5 resources for all Iowa students regardless of geographic
6 location or economic means.

7 b. INTEGRATION WITH THE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND TEACHER
8 QUALITY PROGRAM ESTABLISHED IN CHAPTER 284. The plan shall
9 support student achievement through the integration of
10 learning technologies that are content-focused and that add
11 value to existing instructional methods.

12 c. SUSTAINABILITY AND AVOIDANCE OF OBSOLESCENCE. The plan
13 shall provide for the future sustainability of learning
14 technology resources by adapting to future educational needs
15 and technological changes and by avoiding obsolescence of
16 learning technology resources.

17 d. TEACHER PREPARATION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT. The
18 plan shall provide professional development and training
19 programs for teachers and other educators in the use and
20 integration of learning technology tools in curriculum
21 development, instructional methods, and student assessment
22 systems.

23 e. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. The plan shall foster economic
24 development across all regions of the state and the
25 preparation of students for an economy that embraces
26 technology and innovation.

27 4. PLAN COMPONENTS. At a minimum, the plan shall include
28 the following components:

29 a. GOAL. The initial goal of phase I of the initiative
30 plan is to ensure one-to-one access to and ubiquitous use of
31 fully configured laptop computers in all grade seven public
32 and accredited nonpublic school classes. The initial goal
33 shall include training and learning opportunities for all
34 public and accredited nonpublic school students in grade seven
35 and their teachers. Following the successful implementation

1 of phase I, the ultimate goal is to ensure one-to-one access
2 to and ubiquitous use of a fully configured laptop computer
3 for all public and accredited nonpublic school classes.

4 b. LOCAL PARTICIPATION. All school districts and
5 accredited nonpublic schools in Iowa may participate in the
6 new century learning technology initiative by submitting
7 before December 1, 2003, a written statement indicating their
8 willingness to participate to the commission. A school
9 district or accredited nonpublic school that can meet its
10 student achievement needs while also meeting or exceeding the
11 requirements of the proposal selected as provided in section
12 256G.3 may submit, by December 1, 2003, an application to the
13 commission to receive the alternative equivalent value factor
14 of the goods and services included in the contract minus an
15 amount determined by the commission to reflect certain
16 efficiencies and economies of scale factors gained by the
17 state contract. The commission shall notify the school
18 district or accredited nonpublic school of its approval or
19 disapproval of the application by January 15, 2004.

20 5. PHASED IMPLEMENTATION. The plan shall be implemented
21 in phases, with the initial phase beginning in January 2004
22 for all grade seven public school classes in approximately
23 fifteen school districts in the state selected by the
24 commission. The plan shall be extended in the 2004-2005
25 school year to include all grade seven public and accredited
26 nonpublic school classes. In school year 2005-2006, the plan
27 shall be extended to include all grade eight public and
28 accredited nonpublic school classes. The commission shall
29 annually assess the feasibility of, and recommend a strategy
30 for, the expansion of the program to other public and
31 accredited nonpublic school grade levels.

32 6. COORDINATION, UTILIZATION, AND EXPANSION OF EXISTING
33 TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE. The plan shall require the
34 utilization of the Iowa communications network to enable and
35 complement the technology components that are supported by the

1 fund. Appropriate policymaking entities shall collaborate to
2 ensure that the overall learning technology infrastructure of
3 the state functions and expands in a coordinated fashion. The
4 Iowa telecommunications and technology commission shall take
5 appropriate actions to ensure that capacity is developed and
6 expanded to provide external network connections, technical
7 support, and network access.

8 7. PLAN REQUIREMENTS. The plan shall provide for all of
9 the following:

10 a. Wireless, fully configured laptop computers with a
11 basic productivity suite of functional software for all
12 students and teachers as provided by this chapter.

13 b. An alternative equivalent value factor option for
14 school districts and accredited nonpublic schools as provided
15 in subsection 4, paragraph "b".

16 c. Teacher technology and professional development.

17 d. Internal networks and technical support.

18 e. Costs for replacement or repair of fully configured
19 laptop computers, servers, and other hardware.

20 f. An annual evaluation component. The commission shall
21 annually submit an evaluation report with recommendations to
22 the general assembly, the department of management, and the
23 legislative fiscal bureau.

24 Sec. 5. NEW SECTION. 256G.5 PLAN FUNDING AND BUDGET.

25 1. ANNUAL PLAN RECOMMENDATION. Prior to October 1 of each
26 year, the commission shall recommend to the governor the
27 funding level for implementing the plan.

28 2. BUDGET DEVELOPMENT. By January 1, 2004, and annually
29 by January 1 thereafter, the commission, with the assistance
30 of the department of management, shall prepare an annual
31 budget for the implementation of the plan consistent with the
32 terms of the contract negotiated and approved as provided in
33 section 256G.6, subsection 10, and section 256G.7, subsection
34 2.

35 3. GUIDELINES. The recommended funding level for the plan

1 annually shall include the known obligations and estimates of
2 the following:

3 a. The level of expenditure for purchases of wireless,
4 fully configured laptop computers.

5 b. The level of expenditures for software and services
6 such as technical support and education intranet services.

7 c. Funds designated by the commission for professional
8 development and services.

9 d. Funds designated by the commission for the expenditures
10 for the alternative equivalent value factor.

11 e. Funds designated by the commission for the purpose of
12 making adjustments to the cash flow of revenues generated from
13 the initiative.

14 4. FUNDING LEVEL. The governor's budget, prepared and
15 submitted to the general assembly pursuant to sections 8.21
16 and 8.22, shall include an appropriation sufficient to
17 implement the plan.

18 Sec. 6. NEW SECTION. 256G.6 COMMISSION -- MEMBERS.

19 1. COMMISSION CREATED. A new century learning technology
20 commission is created to establish the policies and determine
21 the necessary budget for implementation of the new century
22 learning technology initiative.

23 2. MEMBERS. The commission shall initially be appointed
24 no later than July 1, 2003, and shall consist of fourteen
25 members appointed as follows:

26 a. Seven voting members who shall be members of the
27 general public, one of whom shall be appointed by the
28 governor, two of whom shall be appointed by the president of
29 the senate, one of whom shall be appointed by the minority
30 leader of the senate, two of whom shall be appointed by the
31 speaker of the house of representatives, and one of whom shall
32 be appointed by the minority leader of the house of
33 representatives.

34 b. One nonvoting, ex officio member who is a member of the
35 state board and is appointed by the chairperson of the state

1 board.

2 c. One nonvoting, ex officio member representing public
3 postsecondary education institutions who is employed by a
4 public postsecondary education institution and who is
5 appointed by the governor.

6 d. Three nonvoting, ex officio members representing three
7 different school districts and who are appointed by the
8 governor as follows:

9 (1) A teacher employed by a school district or area
10 education agency who is appointed from a list of three names
11 submitted by a certified employee organization representing
12 teachers licensed under chapter 272.

13 (2) An administrator employed by a school district who is
14 appointed from a list of three names submitted by a statewide
15 organization representing administrators licensed under
16 chapter 272.

17 (3) A member of a board of directors of a school district
18 who is appointed by a statewide organization representing
19 school boards.

20 e. One nonvoting, ex officio member who is a member of the
21 senate and is appointed by the president of the senate.

22 f. One nonvoting, ex officio member who is a member of the
23 house of representatives and is appointed by the speaker of
24 the house of representatives.

25 3. EXPERIENCE AND SPECIAL KNOWLEDGE. In appointing
26 members to the commission, proper consideration shall be given
27 to persons with experience or special knowledge in one or more
28 of the following areas: education, business, economic
29 development, technology, and finance.

30 4. BALANCE. Commission members shall be appointed in
31 compliance with sections 69.16 and 69.16A. Appointments of
32 public members shall be made to provide broad representation
33 of the various geographical areas of the state insofar as
34 possible.

35 5. CHAIRPERSONS. The commission shall elect a chairperson

1 and a vice chairperson annually from among the voting members
2 of the commission. A member shall not serve as a chairperson
3 or vice chairperson for more than three consecutive years.

4 6. MEETINGS. The commission shall meet at least three
5 times each year.

6 7. QUORUM. A majority of the voting members constitutes a
7 quorum for the transaction of any official business.

8 8. TERMS OF MEMBERS. The members shall be appointed to
9 three-year staggered terms and the terms shall commence and
10 end as provided by section 69.19. If a vacancy occurs, a
11 successor shall be appointed to serve the unexpired term. A
12 successor shall be appointed in the same manner and subject to
13 the same qualifications as the original appointment to serve
14 the unexpired term.

15 9. EXPENSES. Members of the commission are entitled to
16 receive reimbursement for actual expenses incurred while
17 engaged in the performance of official duties.

18 10. STAFFING ASSISTANCE. The director of the department
19 of management shall provide the commission with administrative
20 and technical assistance. The department, in cooperation with
21 the attorney general, shall conduct contract negotiations to
22 establish a public-private partnership in accordance with this
23 chapter on behalf of the commission.

24 Sec. 7. NEW SECTION. 256G.7 DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.

25 The powers and duties of the commission include the
26 following:

27 1. ANNUAL LEARNING TECHNOLOGY PLAN. The commission shall
28 develop a plan as described in section 256G.4, which must
29 provide the basis for the annual appropriation of funds by the
30 general assembly for purposes of the initiative.

31 2. REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS AND TIMELINE. The commission
32 shall develop and issue a request for proposals not later than
33 August 1, 2003. The commission shall select finalists from
34 among the persons submitting proposals not later than
35 September 15, 2003. Not later than October 1, 2003, the

1 commission shall select the private provider who shall partner
2 with the state to implement the initiative. Prior to the
3 final selection, the commission, or up to three voting members
4 of the commission or their designees, shall conduct site
5 visits to no fewer than two selected sites currently
6 implementing projects that meet the requirements of the
7 request for proposals. The commission may enter into a
8 contract negotiated as provided in section 256G.6, subsection
9 10. The term of the contract shall commence not later than
10 January 1, 2004, and shall consist of a phased implementation
11 as provided in section 256G.4, subsection 5. The school
12 districts and accredited nonpublic schools chosen for the
13 initial phase I deployment of computers to students and
14 teachers in grade seven in approximately fifteen school
15 districts and accredited nonpublic schools shall have
16 demonstrated administrative leadership, teacher willingness to
17 participate, and community support, and shall represent
18 geographically distinct rural, urban, and suburban areas of
19 the state. All teachers who teach public and accredited
20 nonpublic school grade seven shall receive professional
21 development to integrate wireless learning technology into
22 classroom teaching between January and July of 2004, prior to
23 the full implementation of the initiative in all public and
24 accredited nonpublic school grade seven and classrooms
25 statewide. All teachers who teach public and accredited
26 nonpublic school grade eight shall receive professional
27 development to integrate wireless learning technology into
28 classroom teaching between January and July of 2005, prior to
29 the full implementation of the initiative in all public and
30 accredited nonpublic school grade eight classrooms statewide.
31 Each student receiving a laptop computer under the initiative
32 and the student's parent or guardian shall participate in an
33 orientation prior to receiving the laptop computer.

34 3. LEARNING TECHNOLOGY STANDARDS AND MEASUREMENTS. To
35 measure the effectiveness of the plan, the commission may

1 establish standards and methods of measuring progress in the
2 levels of academic achievement for, and engagement of,
3 students who participate in the initiative. The commission
4 may also establish standards and methods of measuring progress
5 in the professional development of teachers who participate in
6 the learning technology programs funded by the plan, as well
7 as standards and methods of measuring the impact of the plan
8 on parents and lifelong learners and on improved communication
9 with parents, and the economic impact of the plan on
10 communities across the state. The commission may assess the
11 impacts of the plan according to these standards and
12 measurements.

13 4. SCOPE OF ASSESSMENT ROLE. As part of its assessment
14 role, the commission may consider relevant strategic issues
15 necessary to develop, maintain, and support the achievement of
16 the goals of the plan. These issues may include, but are not
17 limited to, collaboration with the state board regarding the
18 implications of the plan for preservice teacher preparation
19 and for standards-based teacher licensure in the state, as
20 well as collaboration with other state agencies and state
21 policymakers related to other strategic issues necessary to
22 ensure the most cohesive system possible for planning, action,
23 and service in providing kindergarten to grade twelve
24 educational opportunities.

25 5. ANNUAL REPORT. The commission shall report annually to
26 the house and senate standing education committees and the
27 joint subcommittee on education appropriations on the general
28 status of the finances and operations of the plan, including
29 the results of the assessments pursuant to subsections 3 and
30 4.

31 Sec. 8. INITIAL TERMS -- NEW CENTURY LEARNING TECHNOLOGY
32 COMMISSION. Terms of the initial appointments for the new
33 century learning technology commission created pursuant to
34 section 256G.6 shall be staggered as follows:

35 1. Terms expiring April 30, 2005, include one voting

1 member appointed by the president of the senate, one voting
2 member appointed by the speaker of the house of
3 representatives, one member appointed by the governor, the
4 nonvoting, ex officio member of the house of representatives
5 appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives, and
6 the nonvoting, ex officio member appointed by the Iowa
7 association of school boards.

8 2. Terms expiring April 30, 2006, include one voting
9 member appointed by the minority leader of the senate, one
10 voting member appointed by the minority leader of the house,
11 the nonvoting, ex officio member representing public
12 postsecondary education institutions, the nonvoting, ex
13 officio member of the senate appointed by the president of the
14 senate, and the nonvoting, ex officio member representing
15 teachers.

16 3. Terms expiring April 30, 2007, include one member
17 appointed by the president of the senate, one member appointed
18 by the speaker of the house, the nonvoting, ex officio member
19 representing the state board of education, and the nonvoting,
20 ex officio member representing school administrators.

21 Sec. 9. INITIAL PLAN IMPLEMENTATION. The new century
22 learning technology commission shall implement the new century
23 learning technology initiative plan, developed in accordance
24 with section 256G.4, by January 1, 2004.

25 Sec. 10. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act, being deemed of
26 immediate importance, takes effect upon enactment.

27 EXPLANATION

28 This bill creates and establishes a new century learning
29 technology initiative to initially provide public and
30 accredited nonpublic school students attending grades seven
31 and eight with laptop computers and ultimately to enable the
32 full integration of wireless learning technology into teaching
33 and learning for the state's elementary and secondary
34 students. The bill also creates a new century learning
35 technology commission and a new century learning technology

1 fund. The implementation of the Code chapter established by
2 the bill is subject to an appropriation by the general
3 assembly.

4 Under the bill, the commission is created to establish the
5 policies and determine the necessary budget for implementation
6 of the initiative. The commission consists of seven voting
7 and seven nonvoting, ex officio members. The members serve
8 three-year staggered terms and are entitled to receive
9 reimbursement for expenses. The department of management is
10 directed to provide the commission with administrative and
11 technical assistance and to work with the attorney general's
12 office to conduct contract negotiations on behalf of the
13 commission.

14 The bill provides for the establishment of a public-private
15 partnership to implement the initiative according to the
16 contract approved by the commission. The commission is
17 directed to issue a request for proposals and to select from
18 the proposals an entity that will partner with the state to
19 provide a total solutions learning technology package that
20 includes, but is not limited to, hardware, software,
21 professional development, service, and support, and will be
22 managed by a single point of contact responsible for the
23 overall implementation.

24 The bill establishes a timeline for implementation of the
25 initiative as follows: (1) development and issuance of a
26 request for proposals not later than August 1, 2003; (2)
27 selection of proposal finalists not later than September 15,
28 2003; (3) selection, not later than October 1, 2003, of the
29 state's private partner; (4) receipt by the commission by
30 December 1, 2003, of a written statement submitted by school
31 districts and accredited nonpublic schools indicating their
32 willingness to participate in the initiative; (5) commencement
33 of the private-public partnership contract not later than
34 January 1, 2004; (6) commencement, not later than March 15,
35 2004, of an initial deployment of computers in approximately

1 15 schools to students in grade seven. The schools selected
2 for the initial phase must have demonstrated administrative
3 leadership, teacher willingness to participate, and community
4 support, and must represent geographically distinct rural,
5 urban, and suburban areas of the state; (7) provision of
6 professional development for teachers of grades seven and
7 eight to integrate wireless learning technology into classroom
8 teaching. Students receiving laptops and their parent or
9 guardian are also required to participate in an orientation.

10 The bill directs the commission to develop, implement, and
11 annually review a new century learning technology plan. The
12 plan must include or provide for, at a minimum, structure,
13 governance, and oversight of the initiative; consistency with
14 the guiding principles enumerated in the bill, including
15 equity, integration with the student achievement and teacher
16 quality program, sustainability and avoidance of obsolescence,
17 teacher preparation and professional development, and economic
18 development; and must have the following components: a goal
19 of ensuring one-to-one access to and ubiquitous use of fully
20 configured laptop computers in public and accredited nonpublic
21 secondary schools and the provision of training and learning
22 opportunities for students and their teachers; voluntary,
23 willing local participation, which includes permitting a
24 school that is already meeting the proposal's requirements to
25 receive an alternative equivalent value factor of the goods
26 and services, minus an amount determined by the commission to
27 reflect certain efficiencies and economies of scale factors
28 gained by the state contract; implementation of the plan in
29 phases; and coordination, utilization, and expansion of
30 existing technology infrastructure to ensure that the overall
31 learning technology infrastructure of the state functions and
32 expands in a coordinated fashion.

33 Finally, the plan must provide for wireless, fully
34 configured laptop computers and software for the students and
35 teachers identified by the bill; internal networks and

1 technical support; costs for replacement or repair of fully
2 configured laptop computers, servers, and other hardware; and
3 an annual evaluation component.

4 The bill directs the Iowa telecommunications and technology
5 commission to take actions to ensure that capacity is
6 developed and expanded to provide external network
7 connections, technical support, and network access.

8 The bill directs the department of management to assist the
9 commission in preparing an annual budget for implementation of
10 the initiative, directs the commission to annually recommend
11 to the governor the funding level necessary to implement the
12 plan, lists guidelines for determining the funding level
13 necessary, and requires that the governor's budget include an
14 appropriation sufficient to implement the plan. The
15 commission must also annually submit an evaluation report with
16 recommendations to the general assembly, the department of
17 management, and the legislative fiscal bureau. The bill also
18 requires the commission to report annually to the house and
19 senate standing education committees and the joint
20 subcommittee on education appropriations on the general status
21 of the finances and operations of the plan.

22 The bill establishes a new century learning technology fund
23 as a separate and distinct fund in the state treasury and
24 appropriates moneys in the fund to the commission, which must
25 manage and govern the fund in a manner that provides for the
26 financially sustainable support, use, and integration of
27 learning technology in Iowa schools through the public-private
28 partnership. The bill limits an applicant for fund moneys to
29 not more than \$75 million.

30 The bill provides for the initial staggered terms of
31 commission members and requires the commission to implement
32 the initial new century learning technology initiative plan by
33 January 1, 2004.

34 The bill takes effect upon enactment.

35

Description

House File 693 establishes the New Century Learning Technology Initiative to provide laptop computers and wireless learning technology to students and teachers in public and accredited nonpublic schools. The Bill provides the technology through a public-private partnership to students and teachers in grade 7 in 15 selected school districts by the second semester of the 2003-2004 school year. The Initiative expands to all grade 7 students and teachers in public and accredited nonpublic schools in the 2004-2005 school year. In 2005-2006, the Initiative expands to all grade 8 students and teachers. The Bill identifies the Initiative's ultimate goal as providing the technology to all Iowa students and educators. Implementation of the Initiative is contingent upon an appropriation by the General Assembly.

The Bill creates the 14-member New Century Learning Technology Commission in the Department of Management (DOM) and the New Century Learning Technology Fund, the moneys of which are appropriated to the Commission for purposes of the Initiative. It directs the establishment of a public-private partnership to implement the Initiative and requires that the Commission issue a request for proposals. It requires that the provider and the proposal selected by the Commission meet certain requirements.

The Bill describes the features of an annual plan to be developed by the Commission and implemented by January 1, 2004. The plan is to provide for wireless, fully configured laptop computers with a basic productivity suite of functional software for students and teachers; professional development for teachers; internal networks and technical support; costs for replacement or repair of hardware; and an annual evaluation report and recommendations submitted annually to the General Assembly, the Department of Management, and the Legislative Fiscal Bureau. It must also include an alternative equivalent value factor option for school districts and accredited nonpublic schools that choose not to participate in the Initiative under certain conditions; the alternative equivalent value factor set by the Commission is to reflect the value of goods and services included in the State contract minus the value of efficiencies and economies of scale gained by the contract.

The Bill directs the Commission to prepare an annual budget for implementation of the plan and further directs that an appropriation sufficient to implement the plan be included in the Governor's budget submitted to the General Assembly.

Assumptions

1. The Commission will meet 12 times per year in FY 2004 and 6 times in FY 2005 and FY 2006, with 14 members receiving \$50 per diem per meeting and mileage reimbursement averaging \$29 per member per meeting. Half of the members will require reimbursement for lodging and meal expenses, at a maximum of \$35 for meals and \$68 for lodging per member per meeting. Annual expenses for Commission members are estimated to be \$22,000 in FY 2004 and \$11,000 in FY 2005 and FY 2006.
 2. Each meeting of the Commission will require the Department of Management to provide 40 hours of work by one professional at \$40 per hour and one secretary at \$17 per hour. The total cost for DOM staff support to implement the Initiative, including ongoing supervision of the provider contract, is estimated to be \$27,000 in FY 2004 and \$14,000 in FY 2005 and FY 2006.
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3. Total cost for hardware, software, support, and professional development will be \$1,200 per user for initial implementation in grades 7 and 8.
4. Enrollment in grade 7 in 15 selected school districts for second semester of FY 2004 will be 1,500. Total grade 7 enrollment in public and accredited nonpublic schools in FY 2005 and FY 2006 will be 40,000. Total grade 8 enrollment in public and accredited nonpublic schools in FY 2006 will be 40,000.
5. Staffing in grade 7 in 15 selected school districts for second semester of FY 2004 will be 100. Staffing for grade 7 in all public and accredited nonpublic schools in FY 2005 and FY 2006 will be 2,600. Staffing for grade 8 in all public and accredited nonpublic schools in FY 2006 will be 2,600.
6. The annual cost for hardware, software, support, and professional development is estimated to be \$1.9 million in FY 2004 and \$51.1 million in FY 2005 and FY 2006.
7. Until a design is completed and capacity requirements determined, the Iowa Communications Network (ICN) cannot determine whether additional equipment will be required to implement the Initiative. In most communities, ICN connections are available only in the high schools, not middle or elementary schools. The cost of possible additional ICN equipment cannot be estimated.

Fiscal Impact

The estimated fiscal impact of HF 693 to the State General Fund, excluding possible costs to enhance the Iowa Communications Network, is \$1.9 million in FY 2004, \$51.1 million in FY 2005, and \$51.1 million in FY 2006. Costs related to the ICN cannot be estimated at this time.

Sources

Department of Education
Department of Management
Iowa Communications Network

/s/ Dennis C Prouty

April 30, 2003