

FEB 8 2006
EDUCATION

HOUSE FILE 2307
BY D. OLSON

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

A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing a regional learning academy construction
2 grant program and making an appropriation.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20
- 21
- 22
- 23
- 24

HF 2307

1 Section 1. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION -- REGIONAL LEARNING
2 ACADEMY CONSTRUCTION GRANT PROGRAM. There is appropriated
3 from the tax-exempt bond proceeds restricted capital funds
4 account of the tobacco settlement trust fund to the department
5 of education for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2006, and
6 ending June 30, 2007, the following amount, or so much thereof
7 as is necessary, to be used for the purpose designated:

8 For the regional learning academy construction grant
9 program established pursuant to section 256.41:
10 \$ 3,000,000

11 A regional learning academy construction grant awarded to a
12 single school district or consortium of school districts
13 pursuant to section 256.41 shall not exceed \$500,000.

14 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 256.41 REGIONAL LEARNING ACADEMY
15 CONSTRUCTION GRANT PROGRAM.

16 1. A regional learning academy construction grant program
17 is established within the department to provide matching funds
18 to school districts or consortia of school districts that
19 enter into a partnership with one or more community colleges
20 established under chapter 260C, an accredited private
21 institution as defined in section 261.9, or an institution of
22 higher education governed by the state board of regents to
23 provide access to college-level courses at a regional learning
24 academy.

25 2. A school district or a consortium of school districts
26 that meets the requirements of subsection 1 may submit an
27 application to the department for review. The department
28 shall establish criteria for the review and approval of grant
29 applications by rule. The department shall require a local
30 match or contribution toward the overall project cost. Other
31 state or federal funds cannot be used as a match source.
32 Priority shall be given to school districts that work with a
33 neighboring district to establish a common school calendar to
34 maximize the use of the regional learning academy, and to
35 school districts that qualify for federal funds for the same

1 project.

2 3. A grant shall be awarded only to a school district or a
3 consortium of school districts that currently does not have a
4 college campus located within the school district's or
5 consortium's school district boundaries. Projects shall be
6 located in small, medium, and large school districts, although
7 a consortium of school districts that meets the enrollment
8 requirements of a medium or large school district may qualify
9 as a medium or large school district for purposes of receiving
10 a grant award. For purposes of this section, a large school
11 district is a district with an actual enrollment of four
12 thousand seven hundred fifty or more pupils, a medium school
13 district is a district with an actual enrollment of at least
14 one thousand two hundred but not more than four thousand seven
15 hundred forty-nine pupils, and a small school district is a
16 district with an actual enrollment of one thousand one hundred
17 ninety-nine or fewer pupils.

18 4. Grant recipients shall submit an interim report to the
19 department one year after the grant approval and annually,
20 thereafter, until the project is complete, describing the
21 activities and providing information on the status of
22 implementation of the project and expenditures of funds. A
23 final report is required within forty-five days of completion
24 of the project. Project completion shall not be later than
25 September 27, 2009. The department shall evaluate the
26 projects and submit its findings and recommendations to the
27 chairpersons and ranking members of the senate and house of
28 representatives standing committees on education and the
29 chairpersons and ranking members of the joint subcommittees on
30 education appropriations by January 1, 2010.

31

EXPLANATION

32 This bill establishes a regional learning academy
33 construction grant program within the department of education
34 to provide matching funds to school districts or consortia of
35 school districts that enter into a partnership with one or

1 more community colleges, an accredited private institution, or
2 a state university to provide access to college-level courses
3 at a regional learning academy. The bill appropriates \$3
4 million to the department for the program from the tax-exempt
5 bond proceeds restricted capital funds account of the tobacco
6 settlement trust fund to the department for FY 2006-2007 and
7 limits the amount which may be awarded to a single school
8 district or consortium of school districts to \$500,000.

9 The department is directed to require a local match or
10 contribution toward the overall project cost, which cannot
11 come from other state or federal funds.

12 Priority must be given to school districts that work with a
13 neighboring district to establish a common school calendar and
14 to school districts that qualify for federal funds for the
15 same project. A grant shall be awarded only to a school
16 district or a consortium that currently does not have a
17 college campus located within the school district's or
18 consortium's boundaries. Projects shall be located in small,
19 medium, and large school districts.

20 Grant recipients must submit an annual interim report to
21 the department, and must submit a final report within 45 days
22 of completion of the project. Project completion must be by
23 September 27, 2009. The department shall evaluate the
24 projects and submit its findings and recommendations to the
25 chairpersons and ranking members of the senate and house of
26 representatives standing committees on education and the
27 chairpersons and ranking members of the joint subcommittees on
28 education appropriations by January 1, 2010.

29
30
31
32
33
34
35