

Senate File 93

SENATE FILE _____
BY McCOY

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

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the physical education requirements for grades
2 nine through twelve under the educational standards for school
3 districts and accredited nonpublic schools.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:
5 TLSB 1697SS 82
6 kh/es/88

PAG LIN

1 1 Section 1. Section 256.11, subsection 5, paragraph g,
1 2 unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 2007, is amended to read as
1 3 follows:

1 4 All students physically able shall be required to
1 5 participate in physical education activities during each
1 6 semester they are enrolled in school except as otherwise
1 7 provided in this paragraph. For purposes of this paragraph,
1 8 "physical education activities" includes a minimum of thirty
1 9 minutes per day, three school days per week, of activities

1 10 designed to increase cardiovascular fitness. A minimum of
1 11 ~~one-eighth~~ ~~one-quarter~~ unit each semester is required. A
1 12 twelfth grade student who meets the requirements of this
1 13 paragraph may be excused from the physical education
1 14 requirement by the principal of the school in which the
1 15 student is enrolled if the parent or guardian of the student
1 16 requests in writing that the student be excused from the
1 17 physical education requirement. A student who wishes to be
1 18 excused from the physical education requirement must be
1 19 seeking to be excused in order to enroll in academic courses
1 20 not otherwise available to the student, or be enrolled or
1 21 participating in one of the following:

1 22 Sec. 2. Section 256.11, subsection 5, paragraph g,
1 23 subparagraph (2), Code 2007, is amended to read as follows:

1 24 (2) An organized and supervised athletic program which
1 25 requires at least as much participation per week as ~~one-eighth~~
1 26 ~~one-fourth~~ unit of physical education.

1 27 Sec. 3. Section 256.11, subsection 5, paragraph g,
1 28 unnumbered paragraph 2, Code 2007, is amended to read as
1 29 follows:

1 30 Students in grades nine through eleven may be excused from
1 31 the physical education requirement in order to enroll in
1 32 academic courses not otherwise available to the student if the
1 33 board of directors of the school district in which the school
1 34 is located, or the authorities in charge of the school, if the
1 35 school is a nonpublic school, determine that students from the
2 1 school may be permitted to be excused from the physical
2 2 education requirement. A student may be excused by the
2 3 principal of the school in which the student is enrolled, in
2 4 consultation with the student's counselor, for up to one
2 5 semester, trimester, or the equivalent of a semester or
2 6 trimester, per year if the parent or guardian of the student
2 7 requests in writing that the student be excused from the
2 8 physical education requirement. The student seeking to be
2 9 excused from the physical education requirement must, at some
2 10 time during the period for which the excuse is sought, be a
2 11 participant in an organized and supervised athletic program
2 12 which requires at least as much time of participation per week
2 13 as ~~one-eighth~~ ~~one-fourth~~ unit of physical education.

2 14 Sec. 4. STATE MANDATE FUNDING SPECIFIED. In accordance
2 15 with section 25B.2, subsection 3, the state cost of requiring
2 16 compliance with any state mandate included in this Act shall
2 17 be paid by a school district from state school foundation aid
2 18 received by the school district under section 257.16. This
2 19 specification of the payment of the state cost shall be deemed

2 20 to meet all the state funding-related requirements of section
2 21 25B.2, subsection 3, and no additional state funding shall be
2 22 necessary for the full implementation of this Act by and
2 23 enforcement of this Act against all affected school districts.

2 24 EXPLANATION

2 25 This bill increases the physical education unit requirement
2 26 from one-eighth unit per semester to one-quarter, or from 50
2 27 minutes per week to 100 minutes per week, for grades nine
2 28 through 12. The bill also provides that "physical education
2 29 activities", which all physically able students who do not
2 30 qualify for an exemption must participate in, includes a
2 31 minimum of 30 minutes per day, three school days per week, of
2 32 activities designed to increase cardiovascular fitness.

2 33 Rules adopted by the state board currently provide that
2 34 physical fitness activities include activities that increase
2 35 cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength and flexibility;
3 1 sports and games; tumbling and gymnastics; rhythms and dance;
3 2 water safety; leisure and lifetime activities.

3 3 This bill may include a state mandate as defined in Code
3 4 section 25B.3.

3 5 LSB 1697SS 82

3 6 kh:sc/es/88