

**House File 2070 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 2070  
BY MAY

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act requiring the development and administration of a  
2 statewide comprehensive exit examination as a condition of  
3 high school graduation.

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

1 Section 1. Section 256.7, Code Supplement 2009, is amended  
2 by adding the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 30. Adopt rules by July 1, 2011, to  
4 require school districts and accredited nonpublic schools to  
5 administer, beginning not later than the 2015-2016 school year,  
6 a statewide comprehensive exit examination, developed by the  
7 director pursuant to section 256.9, subsection 59, to students  
8 as a condition of graduation. The rules shall provide for  
9 alternative pathways to graduation and for a timeline for the  
10 administration of the exit examinations by school districts and  
11 accredited nonpublic schools, and shall direct school districts  
12 and schools to allow a student to take the exit examination  
13 if the student or the student's parent or guardian submits a  
14 written request to the school district or school.

15 Sec. 2. Section 256.9, Code Supplement 2009, is amended by  
16 adding the following new subsection:

17 NEW SUBSECTION. 59. *a.* Develop a statewide comprehensive  
18 exit examination aligned with the core curriculum and the  
19 core content standards adopted pursuant to section 256.7,  
20 subsections 26 and 28, alternative pathways to graduation,  
21 and alternative assessment measures for students with special  
22 needs, including but not limited to students with disabilities,  
23 English language learners, and general education students  
24 who can otherwise demonstrate mastery of high school level  
25 curriculum and knowledge using an alternative assessment  
26 measure.

27 *b.* (1) In developing a statewide comprehensive examination,  
28 alternative pathways to graduation, and alternative assessment  
29 measures, the director shall convene a task force to identify  
30 best practices for the adoption of a statewide comprehensive  
31 exit examination and determine the levels of support necessary  
32 to prepare teachers and students for the assessments and  
33 examination. The task force shall review the statewide  
34 comprehensive exit examination requirements of other states and  
35 the advantages and disadvantages other states have realized

1 in developing, implementing, and administering statewide  
2 comprehensive exit examinations, alternative graduation  
3 pathways, and alternative assessments, including but not  
4 limited to the costs of preparing teachers and students for  
5 the examinations. The task force shall also identify the  
6 purposes and goals other states have established in regard to  
7 the comprehensive exit examinations. The task force shall  
8 be comprised of kindergarten through grade sixteen education  
9 stakeholders. The task force shall submit its findings and  
10 recommendations in a report to the state board of education,  
11 the governor, and the general assembly on or before January 17,  
12 2011.

13 (2) This paragraph "b" is repealed on July 1, 2011.

14 Sec. 3. STATE MANDATE FUNDING SPECIFIED. In accordance  
15 with section 25B.2, subsection 3, the state cost of requiring  
16 compliance with any state mandate included in this Act shall  
17 be paid by a school district from state school foundation aid  
18 received by the school district under section 257.16. This  
19 specification of the payment of the state cost shall be deemed  
20 to meet all of the state funding-related requirements of  
21 section 25B.2, subsection 3, and no additional state funding  
22 shall be necessary for the full implementation of this Act  
23 by and enforcement of this Act against all affected school  
24 districts.

25 EXPLANATION

26 This bill directs the state board of education to adopt rules  
27 by July 1, 2011, to require school districts and accredited  
28 nonpublic schools to administer a statewide comprehensive exit  
29 examination to students as a condition of graduation. The  
30 rules shall provide for alternative pathways to graduation and  
31 for a timeline for the administration of the exit examinations  
32 by school districts and accredited nonpublic schools, and shall  
33 direct school districts and schools to permit students to take  
34 the exit examination if the student, a parent, or guardian  
35 submits a written request.

1 The director of the department of education is required  
2 to develop, in consultation with a task force comprised  
3 of kindergarten through grade 16 education stakeholders, a  
4 statewide comprehensive exit examination aligned with the  
5 Iowa core curriculum and the state's core content standards,  
6 alternative pathways to graduation, and alternative assessment  
7 measures. The task force must submit its findings and  
8 recommendations to the state board, the governor, and the  
9 general assembly on or before January 17, 2011.

10 The bill may include a state mandate as defined in Code  
11 section 25B.3. The bill requires that the state cost of  
12 any state mandate included in the bill be paid by a school  
13 district from state school foundation aid received by the  
14 school district under Code section 257.16. The specification  
15 is deemed to constitute state compliance with any state mandate  
16 funding-related requirements of Code section 25B.2. The  
17 inclusion of this specification is intended to reinstate the  
18 requirement of political subdivisions to comply with any state  
19 mandates included in the bill.