

**House File 378 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 378

BY PETTENGILL

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to the requirements for early childhood Iowa  
2 areas.

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

1 Section 1. Section 256I.6, subsection 4, Code 2011, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 4. If the state board determines exceptional circumstances  
4 exist, the composition of a multicounty area is not in the best  
5 interests of the counties involved, or there is other good  
6 cause for making an exception, the state board may waive any of  
7 the criteria otherwise specified in subsection 3.

8 Sec. 2. Section 256I.7, subsection 1, Code 2011, is amended  
9 to read as follows:

10 1. a. The early childhood Iowa functions for an area shall  
11 be performed under the authority of an early childhood Iowa  
12 area board. ~~The~~ A majority of the members of an area board  
13 shall be elected officials or members of the public who are  
14 not employed by a provider of services to or for the area  
15 board. In addition, the membership of an area board shall  
16 include representation from early care, education, health,  
17 human services, business, and faith interests, and at least one  
18 parent, grandparent, or guardian of a child from zero through  
19 age five.

20 b. Terms of office of area board members shall be not more  
21 than three years, the terms shall be renewable, and the terms  
22 shall be staggered.

23 EXPLANATION

24 This bill relates to the requirements for early childhood  
25 Iowa areas under Code chapter 256I.

26 Under current law in Code section 256I.6, the state early  
27 childhood Iowa board is required to apply the following  
28 criteria for designation of an early childhood Iowa area's  
29 boundaries: an area cannot encompass more than four counties,  
30 the counties encompassing a multicounty area must have  
31 contiguous borders, and a single county area must have a  
32 minimum population of children zero through age five in excess  
33 of 5,000. Current law allows the state board to waive any of  
34 the criteria if exceptional circumstances exist. The bill also  
35 allows a waiver if the composition of a multicounty area is

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1 not in the best interests of the counties involved or there is  
2 other good cause for making an exception.

3     The bill modifies a restriction on the membership of an  
4 early childhood Iowa area board in Code section 256I.7 that  
5 the membership must all be elected officials or members of the  
6 public who are not employed by a provider of services to or  
7 for the area board. The bill provides that a majority of the  
8 membership of an area board must comply with the restriction.  
9 In addition, the bill specifies that the membership terms of  
10 board members are renewable.