

House File 126 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 126

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and BYRNES

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to school guidance counselors and professional
2 service providers, including professional service and
3 secondary guidance counselor preparation and professional
4 development programs, related licensing and endorsement
5 requirements under the board of educational examiners, and
6 the provision of career and academic guidance counseling
7 services by school districts.

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

1 Section 1. Section 256.9, Code 2013, is amended by adding
2 the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 63. *a.* Collaborate with, at a minimum,
4 the board of educational examiners; the Iowa association of
5 community college trustees; the association of Iowa area
6 education agencies; the Iowa school counselor association; the
7 economic development authority; the department of workforce
8 development; the governor's science, technology, engineering,
9 and mathematics advisory council; and students recommended by
10 the Iowa jobs for America's graduates program; or successor
11 entities, to develop standards and procedures for the approval
12 of professional service and secondary guidance counselor
13 preparation and professional development programs that,
14 upon approval by the state board, accredited postsecondary
15 institutions which grant postgraduate degrees may offer to
16 persons seeking authorization under chapter 272 to serve as
17 secondary school guidance counselors or to provide professional
18 services in Iowa schools. A collaboration as specified in this
19 subsection shall include representation from any stakeholder
20 organization willing to assist the department in meeting the
21 requirements of this subsection.

22 *b.* Community colleges, the economic development authority,
23 and the department of workforce development shall consult
24 and coordinate with employment and workplace stakeholders in
25 assisting the director in developing standards and procedures
26 for the approval of programs pursuant to this subsection.

27 *c.* Accredited postsecondary institutions that offer programs
28 approved pursuant to this subsection shall coordinate with
29 community colleges to ensure that the professional development
30 programs approved under this subsection are offered throughout
31 the state at convenient times.

32 *d.* The requirements for coursework and programs approved
33 pursuant to this subsection shall include but not be limited
34 to the following:

35 (1) Provision of information regarding career exploration,

1 planning, and development assistance; and opportunities
2 available to Iowa's students from targeted industries as
3 defined in section 15.102, subsection 11, as well as industries
4 requiring skilled workers with educational backgrounds in
5 science, technology, engineering, or mathematics.

6 (2) Elements designed to encourage the involvement of
7 parents in career exploration and planning with their children.

8 (3) Elements designed to encourage the involvement of
9 elementary counselors in career exploration and planning with
10 their students.

11 (4) One semester credit or the equivalent issued by a
12 community college or other accredited postsecondary institution
13 in Iowa for coursework or professional development in career
14 exploration, career education, and career planning. If offered
15 by a community college, the coursework shall be offered at
16 the resident tuition rate set pursuant to section 260C.14,
17 subsection 2, to students enrolled in approved professional
18 service and guidance counselor preparation programs and to
19 persons renewing their professional service or secondary
20 guidance counselor licenses or endorsements pursuant to section
21 272.9B. If a community college fails to offer coursework
22 or professional development in career exploration, career
23 education, and career planning by July 1, 2014, the provisions
24 of section 272.9B shall not apply to an applicant described in
25 that section who resides within the boundaries of the community
26 college and who is employed by an Iowa school as a secondary
27 guidance counselor until July 1, 2015, or until twelve months
28 following the date upon which the coursework is made available
29 by the community college, whichever is later.

30 e. The director shall establish an application and review
31 process for approval of programs developed and implemented
32 pursuant to this subsection.

33 f. For purposes of this subsection, "*professional service*"
34 refers to preparation and professional development programs
35 for, and licensure and endorsement of, persons who are

1 authorized under chapter 272 to provide services in Iowa
2 schools as a school counselor.

3 *g.* This subsection shall not be construed to require that an
4 accredited postsecondary institution offering a major course of
5 study related to the relevant coursework offered in programs
6 approved pursuant to this subsection establish additional
7 credit requirements to graduate or achieve certification from
8 the institution in the related major course of study from the
9 institution. However, only coursework and programs that meet
10 the requirements established by the director in accordance with
11 this subsection shall be approved by the state board under
12 section 256.7, subsection 3.

13 **Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 272.9B Professional service and**
14 **guidance counselor licenses.**

15 Beginning July 1, 2015, except as provided in section
16 256.9, subsection 63, paragraph "d", the board shall require
17 applicants for professional service and secondary guidance
18 counselor licenses and endorsements, and for the renewal of
19 such licenses and endorsements, to have successfully completed
20 a professional service or secondary guidance counselor
21 preparation program or professional development program,
22 as appropriate, approved in accordance with section 256.9,
23 subsection 63.

24 **Sec. 3.** Section 279.61, Code 2013, is amended by adding the
25 following new subsection:

26 **NEW SUBSECTION. 3.** Beginning July 1, 2016, except as
27 otherwise provided in section 256.9, subsection 63, paragraph
28 "d", career and academic guidance counseling services shall
29 be provided by the board of directors of a school district
30 to students enrolled in grades nine through twelve only by
31 persons issued professional service or secondary guidance
32 counselor licenses or endorsements pursuant to section 272.9B,
33 or who hold a license issued by the board and meet the renewal
34 requirements for a license pursuant to section 272.9B.

35

EXPLANATION

1 This bill provides for the development, by the department of
2 education, of standards for professional service and secondary
3 guidance counselor preparation and professional development
4 programs, requires the board of educational examiners to
5 establish related licensing and endorsement requirements, and
6 requires, beginning July 1, 2016, that career and academic
7 guidance counseling services provided by school districts to
8 students enrolled in grades nine through 12 be provided only
9 by persons issued professional service or secondary guidance
10 counselor licenses or endorsements by the board of educational
11 examiners and by persons who meet the renewal requirements for
12 a license issued pursuant to the requirements established by
13 the bill.

14 The bill directs the director of the department of
15 education to collaborate with a number of entities to develop
16 requirements for professional service and secondary guidance
17 counselor preparation and professional development programs
18 that academic institutions which grant postgraduate degrees
19 may offer, upon approval by the state board of education, to
20 persons seeking authorization by the board of educational
21 examiners to serve as school counselors or as secondary school
22 guidance counselors.

23 The entities the director must collaborate with include
24 the board of educational examiners; the Iowa association of
25 community college trustees; the association of Iowa area
26 education agencies; the Iowa school counselor association; the
27 economic development authority; the department of workforce
28 development; the governor's science, technology, engineering,
29 and mathematics advisory council; and students recommended by
30 the Iowa jobs for America's graduates program; or successor
31 entities. Employment and workplace stakeholders must be
32 consulted in developing requirements for the programs.

33 Institutions that offer approved programs must coordinate
34 with community colleges to ensure that the professional
35 development programs are offered throughout the state at

1 convenient times.

2 The requirements for coursework and programs must include
3 but not be limited to the provision of information regarding
4 career exploration, planning, and development assistance,
5 and opportunities available to Iowa's students from targeted
6 industries, as well as industries requiring skilled workers
7 with educational backgrounds in science, technology,
8 engineering, or mathematics; and one semester credit or
9 the equivalent issued by a community college for coursework
10 or professional development in career exploration, career
11 education, and career planning. The credit must be offered
12 by the community colleges at the resident tuition rate to
13 students enrolled in approved programs and to persons renewing
14 their professional service or secondary guidance counselor
15 licenses or endorsements. Each community college must offer
16 this coursework not later than July 1, 2014, unless there is
17 no demand for the coursework.

18 The bill affirms that accredited postsecondary institutions
19 are not required to offer the coursework and programs described
20 in the bill, but provides that only coursework and programs
21 that meet the requirements established by the director shall
22 be approved by the state board.

23 Beginning July 1, 2015, applicants for professional service
24 and secondary guidance counselor licenses and endorsements
25 shall have successfully completed an approved professional
26 service preparation program, an approved secondary guidance
27 counselor preparation program or, for those renewing such a
28 license or endorsement, an approved professional development
29 program, and shall have the credit issued by a community
30 college for coursework in career exploration, career education,
31 and career planning.

32 The bill allows an applicant additional time to meet the
33 requirement to have successfully completed a preparation
34 program in order to be licensed or employed as a school
35 counselor if their community college fails to offer the

H.F. 126

1 necessary coursework.