

House File 140 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 140

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A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to school district funding by establishing
2 a supplementary weighting program for shared operational
3 functions of school districts and area education agencies.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 257.11, Code 2013, is amended by adding
2 the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 6A. *Shared operational functions —*
4 *increased student opportunities — budget years beginning in 2014*
5 *through 2019.*

6 a. (1) In order to provide additional funding to increase
7 student opportunities and redirect more resources to student
8 programming for school districts that share operational
9 functions, a supplementary weighting of two hundredths per
10 pupil shall be assigned to pupils enrolled in a district that
11 shares with a political subdivision one or more operational
12 functions of a curriculum director, school administration
13 manager, mental health therapist, school counselor, or school
14 librarian, or one or more operational functions in the areas
15 of superintendent management, business management, human
16 resources, transportation, or operation and maintenance for
17 at least twenty percent of the school year. The additional
18 weighting shall be assigned for each discrete operational
19 function shared. The operational function sharing arrangement
20 does not need to be a newly implemented sharing arrangement
21 to receive supplementary weighting under this subsection.
22 However, to receive supplementary weighting under this
23 subsection for an ongoing operational function sharing
24 arrangement that began before July 1, 2014, the district
25 shall submit information to the department documenting the
26 cost savings directly attributable to the shared operational
27 functions and describe the district's consideration of
28 additional shared operational functions.

29 (2) For the purposes of this section, "*political*
30 *subdivision*" means a city, township, county, school corporation,
31 merged area, area education agency, institution governed by the
32 state board of regents, or any other governmental subdivision.

33 b. School districts that share operational functions with
34 other school districts are not required to be contiguous school
35 districts. If two or more districts sharing operational

1 functions are not contiguous to each other, the districts
2 separating those districts are not required to be a party to
3 the operational functions sharing arrangement.

4 *c.* Supplementary weighting pursuant to this subsection
5 shall be available to a school district for a maximum of
6 five years during the period commencing with the budget year
7 beginning July 1, 2014, through the budget year beginning July
8 1, 2019. The minimum amount of additional weighting for which
9 a school district shall be eligible is an amount equivalent to
10 ten additional pupils, and the maximum amount of additional
11 weighting for which a school district shall be eligible is
12 an amount equivalent to forty additional pupils. Receipt of
13 supplementary weighting by a school district pursuant to this
14 subsection for more than one year shall be contingent upon
15 the annual submission of information by the district to the
16 department documenting cost savings directly attributable to
17 the shared operational functions. Criteria for determining
18 the number of years for which supplementary weighting shall
19 be received pursuant to this subsection, subject to the
20 five-year maximum, and for determining qualification of
21 operational functions for supplementary weighting shall be
22 determined by the department by rule, through consideration of
23 long-term savings by the school district or increased student
24 opportunities.

25 *d.* Supplementary weighting pursuant to this subsection
26 shall be available to an area education agency for a maximum
27 of five years during the period commencing with the budget
28 year beginning July 1, 2014, through the budget year beginning
29 July 1, 2019. The minimum amount of additional funding for
30 which an area education agency shall be eligible is fifty
31 thousand dollars, and the maximum amount of additional funding
32 for which an area education agency shall be eligible is two
33 hundred thousand dollars. The department of management shall
34 annually set a weighting for each area education agency to
35 generate the approved operational sharing expense using the

1 area education agency's special education cost per pupil amount
2 and foundation level. Receipt of supplementary weighting
3 by an area education agency for more than one year shall be
4 contingent upon the annual submission of information by the
5 district to the department documenting cost savings directly
6 attributable to the shared operational functions. Criteria
7 for determining the number of years for which supplementary
8 weighting shall be received pursuant to this subsection,
9 subject to the five-year maximum, and the amount generated by
10 the supplementary weighting, and for determining qualification
11 of operational functions for supplementary weighting shall be
12 determined by the department by rule, through consideration of
13 long-term savings by the area education agency or increased
14 student opportunities.

15 e. This subsection is repealed effective July 1, 2020.

16

EXPLANATION

17 This bill enacts Code section 257.11, new subsection 6A, to
18 allow supplementary weighting for school districts and area
19 education agencies that share operational functions. The
20 bill is similar to the supplementary weighting provisions for
21 shared operational functions in current Code section 257.11,
22 subsection 6, which is repealed effective July 1, 2014. The
23 bill provides supplementary weighting of two hundredths per
24 pupil enrolled in a district that shares with a political
25 subdivision one or more operational functions. Under the bill,
26 eligible shared operational functions include the operational
27 functions of a curriculum director, school administration
28 manager, mental health therapist, school counselor, or school
29 librarian, or one or more operational functions in the areas
30 of superintendent management, business management, human
31 resources, transportation, or operation and maintenance. To
32 be eligible for the supplementary weighting, the operational
33 function must be shared for at least 20 percent of the school
34 year.

35 Under the bill, the operational functions sharing

1 arrangement does not need to be a newly implemented sharing
2 arrangement to receive supplementary weighting. However, to
3 receive supplementary weighting under the bill for an ongoing
4 operational functions sharing arrangement that began before
5 July 1, 2014, the district must submit information to the
6 department of education documenting the cost savings directly
7 attributable to the shared operational functions and describe
8 the district's consideration of additional shared operational
9 functions.

10 The bill does not require school districts that share
11 operational functions with other school districts to be
12 contiguous school districts. In addition, if two or more
13 districts sharing operational functions are not contiguous to
14 each other, the districts separating those districts are not
15 required to be a party to the operational functions sharing
16 arrangement.

17 The supplementary weighting provided in the bill is
18 available to a school district for a maximum of five years
19 during the period commencing with the budget year beginning
20 July 1, 2014, through the budget year beginning July 1,
21 2019. The bill establishes a minimum amount and a maximum
22 amount of additional weighting for which a school district is
23 eligible. In order to receive the supplementary weighting for
24 more than one year, the school district must annually submit
25 information to the department documenting cost savings directly
26 attributable to the shared operational functions.

27 Under the bill, supplementary weighting is available to
28 an area education agency for a maximum of five years during
29 the period commencing with the budget year beginning July 1,
30 2014, through the budget year beginning July 1, 2019. The
31 bill establishes a minimum amount and a maximum amount of
32 additional weighting for which an area education agency is
33 eligible. In order to receive the supplementary weighting for
34 more than one year, the area education agency must annually
35 submit information to the department documenting cost savings

1 directly attributable to the shared operational functions. The
2 bill requires the department of management to annually set
3 a weighting for each area education agency to generate the
4 approved operational sharing expense using the area education
5 agency's special education cost per pupil amount and foundation
6 level.

7 The bill provides that Code section 257.11, new subsection
8 6A, is repealed effective July 1, 2020.