

House File 2263 - Introduced

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BY MASCHER

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to publicly funded preschool and early
2 childhood programming and making appropriations.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 256C.3, subsection 4, unnumbered
2 paragraph 1, Code 2014, is amended to read as follows:

3 Effective with the budget year beginning July 1, 2015, each
4 school district shall implement an approved local program
5 to provide preschool in accordance with this chapter. The
6 state board shall adopt rules to further define the following
7 requirements of school districts implementing the preschool
8 program:

9 Sec. 2. Section 256C.3, subsection 4, Code 2014, is amended
10 by adding the following new paragraph:

11 NEW PARAGRAPH. e. (1) A school district participating
12 in the preschool program shall utilize district information
13 and information accessed through the departmental data systems
14 to identify which children are receiving services under or
15 participating in a state-funded or district-funded preschool
16 program, the head start program, or other preschool program
17 reported by parents of the participating children. The
18 departmental data systems may include the unique student
19 identifier, the student reporting in Iowa system, or other
20 relevant data system. The school district and the early
21 childhood Iowa area governing board for any area encompassing
22 the school district shall review the information. The purpose
23 of the review is for the district and the area board to
24 implement action steps to assure that all of the eligible
25 children residing in the district and the area are aware of
26 and able to participate in publicly funded preschool programs.
27 The action steps shall focus on securing the participation of
28 children from low-income families.

29 (2) A school district participating in the preschool
30 program shall annually document how the district works
31 in collaboration with participating families, early care
32 providers, and community partners, as described in subsection
33 3, to expand the preschool programming to settings other than
34 the school district's facilities in order to be as convenient
35 and cost effective as possible for the families of the children

1 who are eligible for the programming.

2 (3) Each school district subject to this paragraph "e"
3 shall submit to the department an annual report describing the
4 reviews and action steps implemented pursuant to subparagraph
5 (1) and the information documented pursuant to subparagraph
6 (2). The report content, time frame, and other requirements
7 shall be determined by the department. The department shall
8 make the reports publicly available and shall summarize the
9 content of the reports submitted in the department's annual
10 condition of education report.

11 Sec. 3. Section 279.51, Code 2014, is amended by adding the
12 following new subsection:

13 NEW SUBSECTION. 2A. In addition to the amount allocated
14 under subsection 1, paragraph "b", there is appropriated from
15 the general fund of the state to the department of education
16 for the following fiscal years, the following amounts for
17 allocation to the child development coordinating council
18 established in chapter 256A, to be used as additional funding
19 for the purposes set out in subsection 2 of this section and
20 section 256A.3:

21 a. For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014, fifteen
22 million dollars.

23 b. For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015, thirty
24 million dollars.

25 c. For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016, forty-five
26 million dollars.

27 d. For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017, and
28 succeeding fiscal years, sixty million dollars.

29 Sec. 4. STATE MANDATE FUNDING SPECIFIED. In accordance
30 with section 25B.2, subsection 3, the state cost of requiring
31 compliance with any state mandate included in this Act shall
32 be paid by a school district from state school foundation aid
33 received by the school district under section 257.16. This
34 specification of the payment of the state cost shall be deemed
35 to meet all of the state funding-related requirements of

1 section 25B.2, subsection 3, and no additional state funding
2 shall be necessary for the full implementation of this Act
3 by and enforcement of this Act against all affected school
4 districts.

5

EXPLANATION

6

The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
7 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

7

8 This bill relates to publicly funded preschool and early
9 childhood programming and makes appropriations.

10 Code section 256C.3, relating to preschool program
11 requirements, is amended to require each school district to
12 provide a preschool program approved by the department of
13 education, effective with the school budget year beginning July
14 1, 2015.

15 In addition, Code section 256C.3 is amended to require
16 each school district participating in the preschool program
17 to review various data sources to identify the children in
18 the district participating in publicly funded preschool. The
19 school district and any early childhood Iowa area governing
20 board for the area encompassing the school district are
21 required to implement action steps to assure that all of the
22 eligible children residing in the district and the area are
23 aware of and able to participate in publicly funded preschool
24 programs. Also, a school district participating in the
25 preschool program must annually document how the district
26 works in collaboration with participating families, early care
27 providers, and community partners, to expand the preschool
28 programming to settings other than the school district's
29 facilities in order to be as convenient and cost effective as
30 possible for the families of the children who are eligible for
31 the programming. Each school district subject to the two new
32 requirements must submit an annual report to the department of
33 education describing the reviews and action steps implemented
34 pursuant to, and the information on, collaboration. The
35 report content, time frame, and other requirements are to be

1 determined by the department. The department is required
2 to make the reports publicly available and to summarize the
3 content of the reports submitted in the department's annual
4 condition of education report.

5 A standing limited appropriation of \$60 million is phased
6 in by the bill over a four-year period. The appropriation is
7 to be allocated to the child development coordinating council
8 to be used as additional funding for the council's grants to
9 school districts to establish programs for three-year-old,
10 four-year-old, and five-year-old at-risk children, which
11 programs are a combination of preschool and full-day
12 kindergarten, and to provide educational support services to
13 parents of at-risk children from birth through three years of
14 age.

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