

House File 2343 - Introduced

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A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing an Iowa employment rides initiative in the
2 department of transportation and making an appropriation.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 324A.8 Iowa employment rides
2 initiative — grant program.

3 1. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise
4 requires, "*employment transportation*" means an urban or
5 rural program or service that provides an individual with
6 transportation solely to or from a workplace, including but not
7 limited to the following programs and services:

8 a. Expanding or sustaining existing transportation services
9 or service hours.

10 b. Coordinating ride share services, including car pool or
11 van pool services.

12 c. Shuttle services.

13 2. The Iowa employment rides initiative is established in
14 the department to provide funds to public transit systems for
15 programs and services that provide employment transportation
16 to Iowans.

17 3. The department shall award funds from the initiative
18 on a competitive grant basis. A grant shall not exceed one
19 hundred fifty thousand dollars. A grant application shall
20 contain a commitment from the public transit system of at least
21 a dollar-for-dollar match of the grant funds awarded. Moneys
22 charged to individuals receiving employment transportation
23 services cannot be used as matching funds. Grant funds shall
24 be used only for operational costs directly associated with
25 providing employment transportation and shall not be used for
26 capital expenditures or construction.

27 4. A public transit system may coordinate with other local,
28 state, or federal governmental agencies and private nonprofit
29 organizations in the administration of a program or service
30 receiving a grant under the initiative and in expenditure of
31 grant funds.

32 5. The department shall submit an annual report on the
33 outcomes of the initiative, including the grant amount, the
34 type of program or service receiving funds, and the number of
35 individuals served for each grant awarded by the initiative to

1 the general assembly by January 1 each year. As a condition of
2 having received a grant from the initiative, a public transit
3 system shall provide the department with information on any
4 program or service for which the public transit system is
5 awarded a grant from the initiative.

6 6. The department shall adopt rules to administer the
7 initiative, including but not limited to an application process
8 and grant award criteria.

9 Sec. 2. APPROPRIATION. There is appropriated from the
10 general fund of the state to the department of transportation
11 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014, and ending June 30,
12 2015, the following amount, or so much thereof as is necessary,
13 to be used for the purposes designated:

14 For grants from the Iowa employment rides initiative
15 established in section 324A.8:

16 \$ 1,000,000

17 EXPLANATION

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

20 This bill establishes an Iowa employment rides initiative
21 in the department of transportation to provide funds to
22 public transit systems for programs and services that provide
23 employment transportation to Iowans.

24 The bill defines "employment transportation" as an urban
25 or rural program or service that provides an individual with
26 transportation solely to or from a workplace, including but
27 not limited to expanding or sustaining existing transportation
28 services or service hours; coordinating ride share services,
29 including car pool or van pool services; and shuttle services.

30 A "public transit system" is defined under Code section
31 324A.1 as an urban or regional transit system providing
32 transit services accessible to the general public and receiving
33 federal, state, or local tax support.

34 The department shall award funds from the initiative on a
35 competitive grant basis. A grant cannot exceed \$150,000. A

1 grant application must contain a commitment from the public
2 transit system of at least a dollar-for-dollar match of the
3 grant funds awarded. Moneys charged to individuals receiving
4 employment transportation services cannot be used as matching
5 funds. Grant funds can only be used for operational costs
6 directly associated with providing employment transportation
7 and cannot be used for capital expenditures or construction.

8 The bill permits a public transit system to coordinate
9 with other local, state, or federal governmental agencies and
10 private nonprofit organizations in the administration of a
11 program or service receiving a grant under the initiative and
12 in expenditure of grant funds awarded.

13 As a condition of receiving a grant from the initiative,
14 a public transit system must provide the department with
15 information on any program or service for which the public
16 transit system is awarded a grant. The bill requires the
17 department to submit an annual report on the outcomes of the
18 initiative, including the grant amount, the type of program
19 or service receiving funds, and the number of individuals
20 served for each grant awarded by the initiative to the general
21 assembly by January 1 each year.

22 The bill requires the department to adopt administrative
23 rules to administer the initiative, including but not limited
24 to an application process and grant award criteria.

25 The bill appropriates \$1 million to the department for
26 fiscal year 2014-2015 to be used for Iowa employment rides
27 initiative grants.