

Senate File 2176 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 2176

BY PETERSEN

A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing a refugee family support services pilot
2 program and making appropriations.

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

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 256I.14 Refugee family support
2 services pilot program.

3 1. The state board shall develop, promote, and administer a
4 refugee family support services pilot program for purposes of
5 providing grants to state, local, or community organizations
6 working with refugee populations to contract with and train
7 multiple refugees to act as refugee community navigators.
8 Financial assistance under the program shall be provided from
9 moneys allocated to the school ready children grants account in
10 the early childhood Iowa fund.

11 2. A state, local, or community organization is eligible for
12 a grant if at least one school district in the organization's
13 county service area has a minority student enrollment of
14 greater than fifty percent and the service area has a large
15 number of emerging refugee populations.

16 3. The organizations awarded a grant pursuant to this
17 section shall recruit and train multiple refugee community
18 navigators to educate and provide direct assistance to their
19 respective refugee communities so the refugee communities can
20 successfully access and utilize existing community resources
21 and services.

22 4. The refugee community navigators shall train other
23 refugee community members and shall offer home-based,
24 peer-group learning sessions about resources in the community.

25 5. The grants awarded pursuant to this section shall be
26 used for employment costs of a program manager and community
27 navigator coordinator, and contract costs for multiple
28 refugee community navigators for each organization. The
29 refugee community navigators recruited and trained by an
30 organization under a grant shall receive at least one hundred
31 thousand dollars each year of the grant moneys awarded to the
32 organization.

33 6. The state board shall award four grants to state,
34 local, or community organizations through a competitive
35 application process. The state board shall provide moneys over

1 a three-year period to the organizations awarded a grant.

2 7. A state, local, or community organization awarded a
3 grant pursuant to this section shall provide the state board
4 with annual progress reports. The state board shall present a
5 report of the program goals and outcomes of each awarded grant
6 to the general assembly.

7 8. The state board shall conduct a comprehensive review of
8 the refugee family support services pilot program and shall,
9 by December 31, 2016, submit a report of its review, as well as
10 any recommendations and cost projections of its recommendations
11 to the governor and the general assembly.

12 9. The state board may expend program moneys for
13 administrative expenses as provided by law.

14 Sec. 2. REFUGEE FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES PILOT PROGRAM
15 APPROPRIATION. There is appropriated from the general fund
16 of the state to the department of education for the following
17 fiscal years, the following amounts, or so much thereof as is
18 necessary, to be used for the purposes designated:

19 For deposit in the school ready children grants account in
20 the early childhood Iowa fund created in section 256I.11, to be
21 used for the purposes of the refugee family support services
22 pilot program established in section 256I.14:

| | | | |
|----|-------------------|----|---------|
| 23 | FY 2014-2015..... | \$ | 746,400 |
| 24 | FY 2015-2016..... | \$ | 746,400 |
| 25 | FY 2016-2017..... | \$ | 746,400 |

26 Of the moneys appropriated for each fiscal year, \$40,000
27 may be used for the early childhood Iowa state board's
28 administration costs for developing, promoting, and
29 administering the program.

30 EXPLANATION

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

33 This bill establishes a refugee family support services
34 pilot program and makes appropriations. The bill directs the
35 early childhood Iowa state board to develop and administer

1 the refugee family support services pilot program to provide
2 grants to state, local, or community organizations working
3 with refugee populations for contracting with and training
4 multiple refugees to act as refugee community navigators.
5 An organization is eligible for a grant if at least one
6 school district within that organization's county service
7 area has a minority student enrollment of greater than 50
8 percent and the service area has a large number of emerging
9 refugee populations. The bill requires the grants to be used
10 for employment costs of a program manager and a community
11 navigator coordinator, and the contract costs of multiple
12 refugee community navigators. The bill provides that the
13 community navigators shall receive at least \$100,000 each year
14 of a grant awarded to an organization. The bill directs the
15 early childhood Iowa state board to award four grants through
16 a competitive application process and to provide funding
17 for those organizations over a three-year period. The bill
18 requires the organizations selected to provide the state board
19 with annual progress reports. The bill requires the state
20 board to present an outcomes report to the general assembly.
21 The bill appropriates \$746,400 from the general fund of the
22 state to the department of education in fiscal years 2014-2015,
23 2015-2016, and 2016-2017 for deposit in the school ready
24 children grants account in the early childhood Iowa fund to be
25 used for purposes of the program established in the bill.