

House File 2081 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2081

BY BEST

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to school district transportation assistance
2 aid, making appropriations, and including effective date and
3 applicability provisions.

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

1 Section 1. Section 257.31, subsection 17, paragraphs a and
2 d, Code 2016, are amended to read as follows:

3 a. If a school district's average transportation costs per
4 pupil exceed the state average transportation costs per pupil
5 determined under paragraph "c" by one hundred fifty percent, the
6 committee may shall grant transportation assistance aid to the
7 district if the district meets the requirements of paragraph
8 "b". Such aid shall be miscellaneous income and shall not be
9 included in district cost.

10 d. (1) For each fiscal year beginning on or after July
11 1, 2016, there is appropriated from the general fund of the
12 state to the committee an amount necessary, less the amount
13 transferred to the committee under subparagraph (2), to
14 provide transportation assistance aid in the amount determined
15 under subparagraph (3) for each school district with average
16 transportation costs per pupil that exceed the state average
17 transportation costs per pupil determined under paragraph "c".

18 (2) Funds transferred to the committee in accordance with
19 section 321.34, subsection 22, are appropriated to and may be
20 expended for the purposes of the committee, as described in
21 this section subsection. However, highest priority shall be
22 given to districts that meet the conditions described in this
23 subsection. Notwithstanding any other provision of the Code,
24 unencumbered or unobligated funds transferred to the committee
25 pursuant to ~~section 321.34, subsection 22~~, remaining on June
26 30 of the fiscal year for which the funds were transferred,
27 shall not revert but shall be available for expenditure for the
28 purposes of ~~this subsection~~ in subsequent fiscal years.

29 (3) For fiscal years beginning on or after July 1, 2016,
30 the amount of transportation assistance aid for each district
31 eligible under this subsection shall be equal to the district's
32 actual enrollment used to calculate the district's average
33 transportation costs per pupil under paragraph "c", multiplied
34 by the difference between the district's average transportation
35 costs per pupil and the state average transportation costs per

1 pupil, as those amounts are determined under paragraph "c".

2 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE UPON ENACTMENT. This Act, being deemed of
3 immediate importance, takes effect upon enactment.

4 Sec. 3. APPLICABILITY. This Act applies to school budget
5 years beginning on or after July 1, 2016.

6 EXPLANATION

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

9 Current Code section 257.31(17) authorizes the school budget
10 review committee to grant transportation assistance aid to
11 a school district if the district's average transportation
12 costs per pupil exceed the state average transportation costs
13 per pupil by 150 percent and if the district meets certain
14 data reporting requirements. Currently, the funding for such
15 transportation assistance aid comes from a transfer of fees
16 collected from the issuance of certain education license plates
17 under Code section 321.32(34) and is considered miscellaneous
18 income and is not included in district cost.

19 Under this bill, if a school district's average
20 transportation costs per pupil exceed the state average
21 transportation costs per pupil and the district meets certain
22 data reporting requirements, the school budget review committee
23 is required to grant transportation assistance aid to the
24 district. For fiscal years beginning on or after July 1,
25 2016, the amount of transportation assistance aid for each
26 district eligible under the bill is equal to the district's
27 actual enrollment used to calculate the district's average
28 transportation costs multiplied by the remainder of the
29 district's average transportation costs per pupil that exceeds
30 the state average transportation costs per pupil.

31 For each fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2016,
32 the bill appropriates to the school budget review committee
33 from the general fund of the state an amount necessary, less
34 the amount transferred to the committee from the collection
35 of education license plate fees, to provide transportation

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1 assistance aid in the amount determined under the bill. The
2 bill also strikes a provision prohibiting the reversion of the
3 license plate fees appropriated to the school budget review
4 committee for the purposes of transportation assistance aid.
5 The bill takes effect upon enactment and applies to school
6 budget years beginning on or after July 1, 2016.