

**House File 2136 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 2136

BY MASCHER

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to successful progression for early readers,  
2 including intensive summer reading programs and third grade  
3 retention of certain students.

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

1 Section 1. Section 279.68, subsection 1, paragraph c, Code  
2 2016, is amended to read as follows:

3 c. Beginning May 1, ~~2017~~ 2018, unless the school district  
4 is granted a waiver pursuant to subsection 2, paragraph "e",  
5 if the student's reading deficiency is not remedied by the  
6 end of grade three, as demonstrated by scoring on a locally  
7 determined or statewide assessment as provided in section  
8 256.7, subsection 31, the school district shall notify the  
9 student's parent or guardian in writing that the parent or  
10 guardian may enroll the student in an intensive summer reading  
11 program offered in accordance with subsection 2, paragraph "e".  
12 If the parent or guardian does not enroll the student in the  
13 intensive summer reading program and the student is ineligible  
14 for the good cause exemption under subsection 5, the student  
15 shall be retained in grade three pursuant to subsection 3.  
16 If the student is exempt from participating in an intensive  
17 summer reading program for good cause, pursuant to subsection  
18 5, or completes the intensive summer reading program but is  
19 not reading proficient upon completion of the program, the  
20 student may be promoted to grade four, but the school district  
21 shall continue to provide the student with intensive reading  
22 instruction until the student is proficient in reading as  
23 demonstrated by scoring on locally determined or statewide  
24 assessments.

25 Sec. 2. Section 279.68, subsection 1, Code 2016, is amended  
26 by adding the following new paragraph:

27 NEW PARAGRAPH. d. If funds are appropriated by the general  
28 assembly for purposes of implementing this paragraph, unless  
29 the school district is granted a waiver pursuant to subsection  
30 2, paragraph "e", beginning May 1, 2018, the school district  
31 shall notify, in writing, the parent or guardian of a student  
32 enrolled in kindergarten through grade two whose reading  
33 deficiency is not remedied by the end of the school year, as  
34 demonstrated by scoring on a locally determined or statewide  
35 assessment as provided in section 256.7, subsection 31, that

1 the parent or guardian may enroll the student in an intensive  
2 summer reading program offered in accordance with subsection  
3 2, paragraph "e".

4 Sec. 3. Section 279.68, subsection 2, paragraph e, Code  
5 2016, is amended to read as follows:

6 e. Offer each summer, beginning in the summer of ~~2017~~  
7 2018, unless the school district receives a waiver from this  
8 requirement from the department of education ~~for the summer of~~  
9 ~~2017~~, an intensive summer literacy reading program for students  
10 assessed as exhibiting a substantial deficiency in reading.  
11 The program shall meet the criteria and follow the guidelines  
12 established pursuant to section 256.9, subsection 53, paragraph  
13 "c", subparagraph (1), subparagraph division (g).

14 EXPLANATION

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

17 This bill modifies provisions that require school districts  
18 to retain in the third grade certain students, and adds a  
19 provision to require school districts to offer, under certain  
20 conditions, an intensive summer reading program for students in  
21 kindergarten through grade two whose reading is deficient.

22 Currently, beginning in the summer of 2017, if a student  
23 is identified by a school district as having a substantial  
24 deficiency in reading, and the student's reading deficiency is  
25 not remedied by the end of grade three, the school district,  
26 unless it has obtained a waiver from the department of  
27 education, must notify the student's parent or guardian that  
28 the parent or guardian may enroll the student in an intensive  
29 summer reading program. The bill delays the requirement until  
30 the summer of 2018 and provides that notification must be in  
31 writing.

32 The bill also delays to 2018 provisions relating to  
33 a requirement that school districts retain a student in  
34 grade three if the student has been identified as having a  
35 substantial deficiency in reading, the student's parent or

1 guardian did not enroll the student in an intensive summer  
2 reading program, and the student does not qualify for a good  
3 cause exemption.

4 The bill requires school districts to provide intensive  
5 summer reading programs, beginning in the summer of 2018,  
6 for students who are enrolled in kindergarten through grade  
7 two, but only if the general assembly appropriates funds for  
8 the programs. For any year in which the general assembly  
9 appropriates funds for such programs, and the school district  
10 has not obtained a waiver from the department of education, the  
11 school district must, if the reading deficiency of a student  
12 enrolled in kindergarten through grade two is not remedied  
13 by the end of the school year, as demonstrated by scoring  
14 on a locally determined or statewide assessment, notify the  
15 student's parent or guardian in writing that the parent or  
16 guardian may enroll the student in an intensive summer reading  
17 program.

18 For consistency, the bill changes a reference from  
19 "intensive summer literacy program" to "intensive summer  
20 reading program".