

House File 2137 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2137

BY MASCHER

A BILL FOR

1 An Act making progression of certain students from grade three
2 and the provision of summer reading programs by school
3 districts subject to an appropriation of funds by the
4 general assembly, and including effective date provisions.

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

27 Sec. 2. Section 279.68, subsection 2, paragraph a,
28 subparagraph (6), Code 2016, is amended to read as follows:

29 (6) Summer reading programs. However, this subparagraph is
30 subject to an appropriation of sufficient funds by the general
31 assembly for the specific purpose of implementing summer
32 reading programs.

33 Sec. 3. Section 279.68, subsection 2, paragraph e, Code
34 2016, is amended to read as follows:

35 e. Offer each summer, beginning in the summer of 2017,

1 ~~unless the school district receives a waiver from this~~
2 ~~requirement from the department of education for the summer~~
3 ~~of 2017~~ subject to an appropriation of sufficient funds by
4 the general assembly for the specific purpose of implementing
5 intensive summer reading programs under this section, an
6 intensive summer ~~literacy~~ reading program for students assessed
7 as exhibiting a substantial deficiency in reading. The program
8 shall meet the criteria and follow the guidelines established
9 pursuant to section 256.9, subsection 53, paragraph "c",
10 subparagraph (l), subparagraph division (g).

11 Sec. 4. REQUEST FOR 2017 INTENSIVE SUMMER READING PROGRAM
12 WAIVER. Notwithstanding section 279.68, a school district that
13 is unable to meet the requirements of section 279.68, relating
14 to the implementation of an intensive summer reading program in
15 the summer of 2017, may request a waiver from the department of
16 education to delay, until the summer of 2018, implementation
17 of the requirements of section 279.68, subsection 1, paragraph
18 "c", section 279.68, subsection 2, paragraph "a", subparagraph
19 (6), and section 279.68, subsection 2, paragraph "e", relating
20 to the implementation of summer reading programs and to the
21 retention of a student in grade three.

22 Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE UPON ENACTMENT. This Act, being deemed of
23 immediate importance, takes effect upon enactment.

24 EXPLANATION

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

27 This bill makes implementation of a Code provision which
28 requires school districts to retain in grade three a student
29 who is deficient in reading subject to an appropriation of
30 funds by the general assembly for purposes of funding the
31 intensive summer reading programs which school districts are
32 required to offer beginning in the summer of 2017.

33 Code section 279.68 lists a number of strategies that
34 school districts are required to provide for students who are
35 deficient in reading if funds are appropriated by the general

1 assembly for purposes of implementing the provision. The list
2 of strategies includes summer reading programs. The bill makes
3 the summer reading programs strategy requirement subject to an
4 appropriation specifically made for that purpose.

5 The bill establishes that provisions of Code section 279.68
6 which require school districts to retain students in grade
7 three who are deficient in reading, and which require school
8 districts to provide a summer reading program as one of the
9 strategies to remediate reading deficiencies, and which require
10 school districts to offer intensive summer literacy programs
11 by the summer of 2017, are all subject to an appropriation
12 of sufficient funds by the general assembly for the specific
13 purpose of implementing the summer reading programs. For
14 consistency, the bill modifies the requirement to replace the
15 word "literacy" with the word "reading".

16 Currently, a school district may receive a waiver from the
17 department of education from the requirement that the school
18 district offer an intensive summer reading program in the
19 summer of 2017. The bill strikes the waiver language from the
20 Code provision, but includes in session law a provision that
21 notwithstanding Code section 279.68 to allow a school district
22 that is unable to meet the requirements of Code section 279.68
23 relating to the implementation of an intensive summer reading
24 program in the summer of 2017 to request a waiver from the
25 department to delay, until the summer of 2018, the requirements
26 of Code section 279.68 relating to the implementation of summer
27 reading programs and to the retention of a student in grade
28 three.