

House File 2139 - Introduced

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BY MASCHER

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to successful progression for early readers and
2 to intensive summer reading programs.

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

1 Section 1. Section 256.7, subsection 31, paragraph a, Code
2 2016, is amended to read as follows:

3 a. ~~By July 1, 2013, adopt~~ Adopt by rule guidelines for
4 school district implementation of [section 279.68](#), including but
5 not limited to basic levels of reading proficiency on approved
6 locally determined or statewide assessments and identification
7 of tools that school districts may use in evaluating and
8 reevaluating any student who may be or who is determined
9 to be deficient in reading, including but not limited to
10 initial assessments and subsequent assessments, alternative
11 assessments, and portfolio reviews. The state board shall
12 adopt standards that provide a reasonable expectation that a
13 student's progress toward reading proficiency under section
14 279.68 is sufficient to master appropriate grade ~~four~~ level
15 reading skills ~~prior to the student's promotion to grade four.~~

16 Sec. 2. Section 279.68, subsection 1, paragraph c, Code
17 2016, is amended to read as follows:

18 c. Beginning May 1, 2017, unless the school district is
19 granted a waiver pursuant to [subsection 2](#), paragraph "e",
20 if the student's reading deficiency is not remedied by the
21 end of grade three, as demonstrated by scoring on a locally
22 determined or statewide assessment as provided in section
23 256.7, subsection 31, the school district shall notify the
24 student's parent or guardian in writing that the parent or
25 guardian may enroll the student in an intensive summer reading
26 program offered in accordance with [subsection 2](#), paragraph "e".
27 ~~If the parent or guardian does not enroll the student in the~~
28 ~~intensive summer reading program and the student is ineligible~~
29 ~~for the good cause exemption under [subsection 5](#), the student~~
30 ~~shall be retained in grade three pursuant to [subsection 3](#). If,~~
31 even though the student is exempt from participating in an
32 intensive summer reading program for good cause, shown pursuant
33 to [subsection 5](#), ~~or completes the intensive summer reading~~
34 ~~program but is not reading proficient upon completion of the~~
35 ~~program, the student may be promoted to grade four, but the.~~

1 The school district shall continue to provide the student with
2 intensive reading instruction until the student is proficient
3 in reading as demonstrated by scoring on locally determined or
4 statewide assessments.

5 Sec. 3. Section 279.68, subsection 1, Code 2016, is amended
6 by adding the following new paragraph:

7 NEW PARAGRAPH. d. If funds are appropriated by the
8 general assembly specifically for purposes of implementing
9 this paragraph and subsection 2, paragraph "e", unless the
10 school district is granted a waiver pursuant to subsection
11 2, paragraph "e", beginning May 1, 2018, the school district
12 shall notify, in writing, the parent or guardian of a student
13 enrolled in kindergarten through grade two whose reading
14 deficiency is not remedied by the end of the school year, as
15 demonstrated by scoring on a locally determined or statewide
16 assessment as provided in section 256.7, subsection 31, that
17 the parent or guardian may enroll the student in an intensive
18 summer reading program offered in accordance with subsection
19 2, paragraph "e".

20 Sec. 4. Section 279.68, subsection 2, paragraph e, Code
21 2016, is amended to read as follows:

22 e. Offer each summer, beginning in the summer of 2017 for
23 students in grade three and, subject to an appropriation of
24 sufficient funds by the general assembly for such purpose,
25 beginning in the summer of 2018 for students in kindergarten
26 through grade two, unless the school district receives a waiver
27 from this requirement either of these requirements from the
28 department of education for the summer of 2017, an intensive
29 summer literacy reading program for students assessed as
30 exhibiting a substantial deficiency in reading. The department
31 may waive the requirement for an intensive summer reading
32 program for grade three students for the summer of 2017 and may
33 wave the requirement for an intensive summer reading program
34 for students in kindergarten through grade two for the summer
35 of 2018. The program shall meet the criteria and follow the

1 guidelines established pursuant to section 256.9, subsection
2 53, paragraph "c", subparagraph (1), subparagraph division (g).

3 Sec. 5. Section 279.68, subsection 3, Code 2016, is amended
4 by striking the subsection.

5 Sec. 6. Section 279.68, subsection 5, paragraph a,
6 unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 2016, is amended to read as
7 follows:

8 The school district shall exempt students from the ~~retention~~
9 ~~and intensive summer reading program requirements provisions~~
10 of subsection 1, paragraph "c", for good cause. Good cause
11 exemptions shall be limited to the following:

12 Sec. 7. Section 279.68, subsection 5, paragraph a,
13 subparagraph (5), Code 2016, is amended by striking the
14 subparagraph.

15 Sec. 8. Section 279.68, subsection 5, paragraph b, Code
16 2016, is amended by striking the paragraph.

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 modifies provisions that require school districts
21 to retain in the third grade certain students, and adds a
22 provision to require school districts to offer, under certain
23 conditions, an intensive summer reading program for students in
24 kindergarten through grade three whose reading is deficient.

25 The bill eliminates a requirement that school districts
26 retain a student in grade three if the student has been
27 identified as having a substantial deficiency in reading,
28 the student's parent or guardian did not enroll the student
29 in an intensive summer reading program, and the student does
30 not qualify for a good cause exemption. A current provision
31 that requires the state board of education to adopt standards
32 regarding a student's progress toward reading proficiency
33 is modified to eliminate language relating to a student's
34 promotion to grade four. For consistency, the bill also
35 changes a reference from "intensive summer literacy program" to

1 "intensive summer reading program".

2 Under the bill, when the school district notifies a parent or
3 guardian that the parent or guardian may enroll the student in
4 an intensive summer reading program, the notification must be
5 in writing. Students continue to be exempt from participating
6 in an intensive summer reading program for good cause, the
7 qualifications for which are listed in Code section 279.68(5).

8 The bill requires school districts to provide intensive
9 summer reading programs, beginning in the summer of 2018,
10 for students who are enrolled in kindergarten through grade
11 two, but only if the general assembly appropriates funds for
12 the programs. The department of education may waive the
13 requirement for a school district. For any year in which the
14 general assembly appropriates funds for such programs, if a
15 school district does not obtain a waiver and if the reading
16 deficiency of a student enrolled in kindergarten through grade
17 two is not remedied by the end of the school year, the school
18 district must notify the student's parent or guardian in
19 writing that the parent or guardian may enroll the student in
20 an intensive summer reading program.