

House File 2157 - Introduced

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BY WILLS

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the Iowa learning online initiative.

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

1 Section 1. Section 256.42, subsections 1, 4, 5, and 8, Code
2 2016, are amended to read as follows:

3 1. An Iowa learning online initiative is established within
4 the department to partner with school districts, and accredited
5 nonpublic schools, and charter schools to provide distance
6 education to high-school students in kindergarten through grade
7 twelve statewide. The department shall utilize a variety of
8 content repositories, including those maintained by the area
9 education agencies and the public broadcasting division, in
10 administering the initiative. School districts, accredited
11 nonpublic schools, and charter schools that comply with the
12 requirements of this section may offer online coursework
13 through the initiative.

14 4. Each participating school district, and accredited
15 nonpublic school, and charter school shall submit its online
16 curricula, if any, to the department for review and possible
17 inclusion in the initiative. Each participating school
18 district and accredited nonpublic school shall include in its
19 comprehensive school improvement plan submitted pursuant to
20 section 256.7, subsection 21, a list and description of the
21 online coursework offered by the district or school.

22 5. Under the initiative, students must be enrolled in a
23 participating school district, or accredited nonpublic school,
24 or charter school, which district or school is responsible
25 for recording grades received for initiative coursework in a
26 student's permanent record, awarding high school credit for
27 initiative coursework, and issuing high school diplomas to
28 students enrolled in the district or school who participate and
29 complete coursework under the initiative. Each participating
30 school shall identify a site coordinator to serve as a student
31 advocate and as a liaison between the initiative staff and
32 teachers and the school district, or accredited nonpublic
33 school, or charter school.

34 8. The department shall establish fees payable by school
35 districts, and accredited nonpublic schools, and charter

1 schools participating in the initiative. Fees collected
2 pursuant to [this subsection](#) are appropriated to the department
3 to be used only for the purpose of administering [this section](#)
4 and shall be established so as not to exceed the budgeted cost
5 of administering [this section](#) to the extent not covered by the
6 moneys appropriated in [subsection 9](#). Providing professional
7 development necessary to prepare teachers to participate in
8 the initiative shall be considered a cost of administering
9 this section. The department shall transfer fees received for
10 courses offered by districts or schools, less any budgeted
11 costs incurred by the department, to the school or district
12 that offered the course. Notwithstanding [section 8.33](#),
13 fees collected by the department that remain unencumbered or
14 unobligated at the close of the fiscal year shall not revert
15 but shall remain available for expenditure for the purpose of
16 expanding coursework offered under the initiative in subsequent
17 fiscal years.

18 Sec. 2. Section 256.42, Code 2016, is amended by adding the
19 following new subsections:

20 NEW SUBSECTION. 4A. The department shall review the
21 technical specifications of curricula submitted under
22 subsection 4. The department may request that a district or
23 school submit additional information regarding such curricula,
24 including but not limited to the qualification and credentials
25 of the teacher, the number of hours of instruction, the
26 technology required to deliver and receive the course, the
27 technical capacity of the district or school district to
28 deliver the course, and the times that the district or school
29 plans to deliver the course, in order to determinate whether
30 such curricula are appropriate for inclusion in the initiative.
31 The department shall approve a course for inclusion in the
32 initiative if the district or school agrees to participate by
33 offering the course through the initiative and the department
34 determines that the district or school can satisfactorily
35 deliver the course through the technology necessary for that

1 delivery. The department may negotiate changes in the proposal
2 to offer a course through the initiative if the department
3 determines that changes are necessary in order to approve the
4 course.

5 NEW SUBSECTION. 4B. The department shall publish a
6 catalog listing each course approved for the initiative on
7 the department's internet site and shall make paper copies
8 available upon request. The catalog shall include the
9 following:

10 a. Information necessary for a student and the student's
11 parent, guardian, or custodian and the student's school
12 district, accredited nonpublic school, or charter school to
13 decide whether the child should enroll in the course.

14 b. Instructions for enrolling in each course, including
15 deadlines for enrollment.

16 NEW SUBSECTION. 10. The department shall adopt rules
17 pursuant to chapter 17A to administer this section, including
18 but not limited to rules permitting students receiving private
19 instruction pursuant to chapter 299A to receive instruction
20 through the initiative.

21

EXPLANATION

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

24 This bill makes various changes to the Iowa learning online
25 initiative administered by the department of education pursuant
26 to Code section 256.42.

27 Under current law, participation in the initiative is
28 limited to high school students. The bill provides that
29 students in kindergarten through grade 12 may participate in
30 the initiative. The bill also provides that charter schools
31 may participate in the initiative.

32 The bill specifies that school districts, accredited
33 nonpublic schools, and charter schools that comply with the
34 requirements of Code section 256.42 may offer online coursework
35 through the initiative.

1 The bill requires each school district, accredited nonpublic
2 school, and charter school to submit its online curricula, if
3 any, to the department for review and possible inclusion in
4 the initiative. The bill requires each school district and
5 accredited nonpublic school to submit a list and description of
6 the online coursework offered by the district or school in its
7 comprehensive school improvement plan.

8 The bill requires the department to review the technical
9 specifications of curricula submitted as required by the bill.
10 The bill permits the department to request that a district or
11 school submit additional information regarding such curricula
12 in order to determinate whether such curricula are appropriate
13 for inclusion in the initiative. The bill requires the
14 department to approve a course for inclusion in the initiative
15 if the district or school agrees to participate by offering the
16 course through the initiative and the department determines
17 that the district or school can satisfactorily deliver the
18 course through the technology necessary for that delivery.
19 The bill permits the department to negotiate changes in the
20 proposal to offer a course through the initiative if the
21 department determines that changes are necessary in order to
22 approve the course.

23 The bill requires the department to publish a catalog
24 listing each course approved for the initiative and including
25 necessary information about the courses and enrollment
26 instructions.

27 The bill requires the department to transfer fees received
28 for courses offered by districts or schools, less any budgeted
29 costs incurred by the department, to the school or district
30 that offered the course.

31 The bill requires the department to adopt administrative
32 rules to administer Code section 256.42, including but
33 not limited to rules permitting students receiving private
34 instruction pursuant to Code chapter 299A to receive
35 instruction through the initiative.