

**House File 2203 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 2203

BY RUNNING-MARQUARDT

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act establishing an Iowa employment and education rides  
2 initiative and related fund in the state department of  
3 transportation.

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

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 324A.8 Iowa employment and  
2 education rides initiative — grant program — fund.

3 1. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise  
4 requires, "*employment and education transportation*" means an  
5 urban or rural program or service that provides an individual  
6 with transportation solely to or from a workplace or adult  
7 education venue, including but not limited to community  
8 college, evening or weekend class, apprenticeship program, or  
9 job training program. Such urban or rural program or service  
10 includes but is not limited to the following programs and  
11 services:

12 a. Expanding or sustaining existing transportation services  
13 or service hours.

14 b. Coordinating ride share services, including car pool or  
15 van pool services.

16 c. Shuttle services.

17 2. The Iowa employment and education rides initiative  
18 is established in the department to provide funds to public  
19 transit systems for programs and services that provide  
20 employment and education transportation to Iowans.

21 3. The department shall award funds from the initiative  
22 on a competitive grant basis. A grant shall not exceed one  
23 hundred fifty thousand dollars. A grant application shall  
24 contain a commitment from the public transit system of at least  
25 a dollar-for-dollar match of the grant funds awarded. Moneys  
26 charged to individuals receiving employment transportation  
27 services cannot be used as matching funds. Grant funds shall  
28 be used only for operational costs directly associated with  
29 providing employment and education transportation and shall not  
30 be used for capital expenditures or construction.

31 4. A public transit system may coordinate with other local,  
32 state, or federal governmental agencies and private nonprofit  
33 organizations in the administration of a program or service  
34 receiving a grant under the initiative and in expenditure of  
35 grant funds.

1 5. The department shall, by January 1 each year, submit  
2 a report to the general assembly on the outcomes of the  
3 initiative, including the grant amount, the type of program or  
4 service receiving funds, and the number of individuals served  
5 for each grant awarded by the initiative. As a condition of  
6 having received a grant from the initiative, a public transit  
7 system shall provide the department with information on any  
8 program or service for which the public transit system is  
9 awarded a grant from the initiative.

10 6. The department shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A  
11 to administer the initiative, including but not limited to an  
12 application process and grant award criteria.

13 7. *a.* An Iowa employment and education rides fund is  
14 created in the state treasury under the control of the  
15 department. The fund shall consist of moneys appropriated to  
16 the department and any other moneys available to, obtained, or  
17 accepted by the department for placement in the fund.

18 *b.* Moneys in the fund shall be used to provide grants under  
19 the Iowa employment and education rides initiative established  
20 in this section.

21 *c.* Moneys in the fund are not subject to section 8.33.  
22 Notwithstanding section 12C.7, subsection 2, interest or  
23 earnings on moneys in the fund shall be credited to the fund.

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 establishes an Iowa employment and education rides  
28 initiative in the department of transportation to provide  
29 funds to public transit systems for programs and services that  
30 provide employment and education transportation to Iowans.

31 The bill defines "employment and education transportation"  
32 as an urban or rural program or service that provides an  
33 individual with transportation solely to or from a workplace or  
34 adult education venue, including but not limited to community  
35 college, evening or weekend class, apprenticeship program, or

1 job training program. The urban or rural program or service  
2 includes but is not limited to expanding or sustaining existing  
3 transportation services or service hours; coordinating ride  
4 share services, including car pool or van pool services; and  
5 shuttle services.

6 A "public transit system" is defined under Code section  
7 324A.1 as an urban or regional transit system providing  
8 transit services accessible to the general public and receiving  
9 federal, state, or local tax support.

10 The department shall award funds from the initiative on a  
11 competitive grant basis. A grant cannot exceed \$150,000. A  
12 grant application must contain a commitment from the public  
13 transit system of at least a dollar-for-dollar match of the  
14 grant funds awarded. Moneys charged to individuals receiving  
15 employment and education transportation services cannot be  
16 used as matching funds. Grant funds can only be used for  
17 operational costs directly associated with providing employment  
18 and education transportation and cannot be used for capital  
19 expenditures or construction.

20 The bill permits a public transit system to coordinate  
21 with other local, state, or federal governmental agencies and  
22 private nonprofit organizations in the administration of a  
23 program or service receiving a grant under the initiative and  
24 in expenditure of grant funds awarded.

25 As a condition of receiving a grant from the initiative,  
26 a public transit system must provide the department with  
27 information on any program or service for which the public  
28 transit system is awarded a grant. The bill requires the  
29 department to submit an annual report to the general assembly  
30 on the outcomes of the initiative, including the grant amount,  
31 the type of program or service receiving funds, and the number  
32 of individuals served for each grant awarded by the initiative.

33 The bill requires the department to adopt administrative  
34 rules to administer the initiative, including but not limited  
35 to an application process and grant award criteria.

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1 The bill creates an employment and education rides fund in  
2 the state treasury under the control of the department. The  
3 fund shall consist of moneys appropriated to the department and  
4 any other moneys available to, obtained, or accepted by the  
5 department for placement in the fund. The moneys in the fund  
6 shall be used to provide grants under the Iowa employment and  
7 education rides initiative established in the bill.