

House File 356 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 356
BY ABDUL-SAMAD

A BILL FOR

1 An Act providing for a world language education pilot program
2 and making appropriations.

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

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 256.34 World language education
2 pilot program — report — appropriation.

3 1. The department shall establish a world language
4 education pilot program to enhance foreign language education
5 in Iowa elementary schools. The pilot program shall provide
6 for research-based foreign language instruction of students
7 beginning in kindergarten and continuing through grade five.
8 The pilot program shall provide for yearly assessments of
9 student progress in the development of foreign language skills.
10 The department shall establish program evaluation criteria,
11 including but not limited to improvement in student grades and
12 reading, writing, and cultural competency skills.

13 2. The department shall establish the pilot program in two
14 elementary schools in school districts with enrollment less
15 than three thousand students and two elementary schools in
16 school districts with enrollment greater than three thousand
17 students. The department shall limit participation in the
18 pilot program to schools in which at least ninety percent of
19 enrolled students are eligible for free or reduced price meals
20 under the federal National School Lunch Act and the federal
21 Child Nutrition Act of 1966, 42 U.S.C. §§1751-1785. The
22 department shall give preference in the selection of schools
23 to participate in the pilot program to schools in which a
24 significant percentage of enrolled students are limited English
25 proficient as defined in section 280.4, subsection 1, or
26 in which enrolled students have a language background in a
27 significant number of languages other than English.

28 3. Each elementary school participating in the pilot
29 program shall enter into a chapter 28E agreement with a regents
30 institution to assist in the development of instruction,
31 coursework, assessments, and any other resources necessary to
32 carry out the pilot program.

33 4. The department shall submit a biennial report to
34 the general assembly beginning December 30, 2016, on the
35 department's findings and recommendations regarding the pilot

1 program and foreign language education in this state.

2 5. There is appropriated from the general fund of the
3 state to the department of education for each of the fiscal
4 years in the fiscal period beginning July 1, 2015, and ending
5 June 30, 2021, two hundred eighty thousand dollars for the
6 pilot program. There is appropriated from the general fund of
7 the state to the department of education for the fiscal year
8 beginning July 1, 2015, and ending June 30, 2016, one hundred
9 thousand dollars for administrative costs associated with the
10 implementation of the pilot program.

11

EXPLANATION

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

14 This bill requires the department of education to establish
15 a world language education pilot program to enhance foreign
16 language education in Iowa elementary schools. The pilot
17 program shall provide for research-based foreign language
18 instruction of students beginning in kindergarten and
19 continuing through grade five. The pilot program shall provide
20 for yearly assessments of student progress in the development
21 of foreign language skills. The bill requires the department
22 to establish program evaluation criteria.

23 The bill requires the department to establish the pilot
24 program in two elementary schools in school districts with
25 enrollment less than 3,000 students and two elementary
26 schools in school districts with enrollment greater than 3,000
27 students. The bill limits participation in the pilot program
28 to schools in which at least 90 percent of enrolled students
29 are eligible for free or reduced price meals under federal
30 law. The bill requires the department to give preference in
31 the selection of schools to participate in the pilot program to
32 schools in which a significant percentage of enrolled students
33 are limited English proficient or in which enrolled students
34 have a language background in a significant number of languages
35 other than English.

1 The bill requires a participating elementary school to enter
2 into an agreement pursuant to Code chapter 28E with a regents
3 institution to assist in the development of instruction,
4 coursework, assessments, and any other resources necessary to
5 carry out the pilot program.

6 The bill requires the department to submit a biennial report
7 to the general assembly beginning December 30, 2016, on the
8 department's findings and recommendations regarding the pilot
9 program and foreign language education.

10 The bill appropriates \$280,000 to the department for the
11 pilot program for each of the six fiscal years in the fiscal
12 period beginning July 1, 2015, and ending June 30, 2021.
13 The bill also appropriates \$100,000 to the department for
14 administrative costs associated with the implementation of the
15 pilot program for fiscal year 2015-2016.