

**House File 559 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 559  
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 462)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act providing for a waiver of eligibility requirements to  
2 receive a high school equivalency diploma.

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

1 Section 1. Section 259A.2, Code 2015, is amended to read as  
2 follows:

3 **259A.2 Age — waiver.**

4 1. Every applicant must have attained the age of eighteen  
5 years, be a nonhigh school graduate, and not currently enrolled  
6 in a secondary school. However, an applicant is not eligible  
7 for the diploma until after the class in which the applicant  
8 was enrolled has graduated. An applicant may request a waiver  
9 of the requirements of this subsection from the department of  
10 education. The department shall grant such a waiver if the  
11 department determines that such a waiver would be in the best  
12 interests of the applicant.

13 2. Application shall be made to a testing center approved  
14 by the department of education, accompanied by an application  
15 fee in an amount prescribed by the department. The test scores  
16 shall be forwarded by the scorer of the test to the department.

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 permits an applicant for a high school equivalency  
21 diploma to request a waiver from the department of education of  
22 the eligibility requirements for a diploma. The bill requires  
23 the department to grant such a waiver if the department  
24 determines that such a waiver would be in the best interests  
25 of the applicant.

26 To be eligible for a high school equivalency diploma under  
27 current law, an applicant must have attained the age of 18  
28 years, not be a high school graduate, and not be currently  
29 enrolled in a secondary school, and an applicant is not  
30 eligible for the diploma until after the class in which the  
31 applicant was enrolled has graduated.