

Senate File 2042 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 2042

BY MATHIS

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.