

House File 367 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 367

BY MASCHER

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to successful progression for early readers and
2 to intensive summer reading programs.

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

1 Section 1. Section 256.7, subsection 31, paragraph a, Code
2 2017, is amended to read as follows:

3 a. Adopt by rule guidelines for school district
4 implementation of [section 279.68](#), including but not limited
5 to basic levels of reading proficiency on approved locally
6 determined or statewide assessments and identification
7 of tools that school districts may use in evaluating and
8 reevaluating any student who may not be or who is determined
9 not to be reading proficiently and is persistently at risk in
10 reading, including but not limited to initial assessments and
11 subsequent assessments, alternative assessments, and portfolio
12 reviews. The state board shall adopt standards that provide
13 a reasonable expectation that a student's progress toward
14 reading proficiency under [section 279.68](#) is sufficient to
15 master appropriate grade four level reading skills ~~prior to the~~
16 ~~student's promotion to grade four.~~

17 Sec. 2. Section 279.68, subsection 1, paragraph c, Code
18 2017, is amended to read as follows:

19 c. Beginning May 1, 2018, unless the school district is
20 granted a waiver pursuant to [subsection 2](#), paragraph "e", if
21 the student is persistently at risk in reading by at the end
22 of grade three, the school district shall notify the student's
23 parent or guardian in writing that the parent or guardian may
24 enroll the student in an intensive summer reading program
25 offered in accordance with [subsection 2](#), paragraph "e". ~~If the~~
26 ~~parent or guardian does not enroll the student in the intensive~~
27 ~~summer reading program and the student is ineligible for the~~
28 ~~good cause exemption under [subsection 5](#), the student shall be~~
29 ~~retained in grade three pursuant to [subsection 3](#).~~ If, even if
30 the student is exempt from participating in an intensive summer
31 reading program for good cause, shown pursuant to subsection
32 5, ~~or completes the intensive summer reading program but is~~
33 ~~not reading proficiently upon completion of the program, the~~
34 ~~student may be promoted to grade four, but the.~~ The school
35 district shall continue to provide the student with intensive

1 reading instruction until the student is reading proficiently
2 as demonstrated by scoring on locally determined or statewide
3 assessments administered under paragraph "a".

4 Sec. 3. Section 279.68, subsection 1, Code 2017, is amended
5 by adding the following new paragraph:

6 NEW PARAGRAPH. *d.* If funds are appropriated by the
7 general assembly specifically for purposes of implementing
8 this paragraph and subsection 2, paragraph "e", unless the
9 school district is granted a waiver pursuant to subsection
10 2, paragraph "e", beginning May 1, 2019, the school district
11 shall notify, in writing, the parent or guardian of a
12 student enrolled in kindergarten through grade two who is
13 persistently at risk in reading by the end of the school year,
14 as demonstrated by scoring on a locally determined or statewide
15 assessment as provided in section 256.7, subsection 31, that
16 the parent or guardian may enroll the student in an intensive
17 summer reading program offered in accordance with subsection
18 2, paragraph "e".

19 Sec. 4. Section 279.68, subsection 2, paragraph e, Code
20 2017, is amended to read as follows:

21 *e.* Offer each summer, beginning in the summer of 2018 for
22 students in grade three and, subject to an appropriation of
23 sufficient funds by the general assembly for such purpose,
24 beginning in the summer of 2019 for students in kindergarten
25 through grade two, unless the school district receives a waiver
26 from this requirement as authorized under this paragraph
27 from the department of education for the summer of 2018,
28 an intensive summer reading program for students who are
29 persistently at risk in reading. The department may waive
30 the requirement for an intensive summer reading program for
31 grade three students for the summer of 2018 and may waive
32 the requirement for an intensive summer reading program for
33 students in kindergarten through grade two for the summer of
34 2019. The program shall meet the criteria and follow the
35 guidelines established pursuant to section 256.9, subsection

1 49, paragraph "c", subparagraph (1), subparagraph division (g).

2 Sec. 5. Section 279.68, subsection 3, Code 2017, is amended
3 by striking the subsection.

4 Sec. 6. Section 279.68, subsection 5, paragraph a,
5 unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 2017, is amended to read as
6 follows:

7 The school district shall exempt students from the ~~retention~~
8 ~~and intensive summer reading program requirements~~ provisions
9 of subsection 1, paragraph "c", for good cause. Good cause
10 exemptions shall be limited to the following:

11 Sec. 7. Section 279.68, subsection 5, paragraph a,
12 subparagraph (5), Code 2017, is amended by striking the
13 subparagraph.

14 Sec. 8. Section 279.68, subsection 5, paragraph b, Code
15 2017, is amended by striking the paragraph.

16 EXPLANATION

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

19 This bill modifies provisions that require school districts
20 to retain in the third grade certain students, and adds a
21 provision to require school districts to offer, under certain
22 conditions, an intensive summer reading program for students in
23 kindergarten through grade three whose reading is deficient.

24 The bill eliminates a requirement that a school district
25 retain a student in grade three if the student is not reading
26 proficiently and is persistently at risk in reading, the
27 student's parent or guardian did not enroll the student in
28 an intensive summer reading program, and the student does
29 not qualify for a good cause exemption. A current provision
30 that requires the state board of education to adopt standards
31 regarding a student's progress toward reading proficiency
32 is modified to eliminate language relating to a student's
33 promotion to grade four.

34 Under the bill, when the school district notifies a parent or
35 guardian that the parent or guardian may enroll the student in

1 an intensive summer reading program, the notification must be
2 in writing. Students continue to be exempt from participating
3 in an intensive summer reading program for good cause, the
4 qualifications for which are listed in Code section 279.68(5).

5 The bill requires school districts to provide intensive
6 summer reading programs, beginning in the summer of 2019,
7 for students who are enrolled in kindergarten through grade
8 two, but only if the general assembly appropriates funds for
9 the programs. The department of education may waive the
10 requirement for an intensive summer reading program for grade
11 three students for 2018 and for kindergarten through grade two
12 students for 2019. For any year in which the general assembly
13 appropriates funds for such programs, if a school district does
14 not obtain a waiver and if a student enrolled in kindergarten
15 through grade two is persistently at risk in reading at the
16 end of the school year, the school district must notify the
17 student's parent or guardian in writing that the parent or
18 guardian may enroll the student in an intensive summer reading
19 program.