

House File 370 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 370

BY MASCHER

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to successful progression for early readers,
2 including intensive summer reading programs and third grade
3 retention of certain students.

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

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

3 c. Beginning May 1, ~~2018~~ 2019, unless the school district
4 is granted a waiver pursuant to [subsection 2](#), paragraph "e", if
5 the student is persistently at risk in reading ~~by~~ at the end
6 of grade three, the school district shall notify the student's
7 parent or guardian in writing that the parent or guardian may
8 enroll the student in an intensive summer reading program
9 offered in accordance with [subsection 2](#), paragraph "e". If
10 the parent or guardian does not enroll the student in the
11 intensive summer reading program and the student is ineligible
12 for the good cause exemption under [subsection 5](#), the student
13 shall be retained in grade three pursuant to [subsection 3](#).
14 If the student is exempt from participating in an intensive
15 summer reading program for good cause, pursuant to subsection
16 5, or completes the intensive summer reading program but is
17 not reading proficiently upon completion of the program, the
18 student may be promoted to grade four, but the school district
19 shall continue to provide the student with intensive reading
20 instruction until the student is reading proficiently as
21 demonstrated by scoring on locally determined or statewide
22 assessments administered under paragraph "a".

23 Sec. 2. Section 279.68, subsection 1, Code 2017, is amended
24 by adding the following new paragraph:

25 NEW PARAGRAPH. d. If funds are appropriated by the
26 general assembly for purposes of implementing this paragraph,
27 unless the school district is granted a waiver pursuant to
28 subsection 2, paragraph "e", beginning May 1, 2019, the school
29 district shall notify, in writing, the parent or guardian of
30 a student enrolled in kindergarten through grade two who is
31 persistently at risk in reading at the end of the school year,
32 as demonstrated by scoring on a locally determined or statewide
33 assessment as provided in section 256.7, subsection 31, that
34 the parent or guardian may enroll the student in an intensive
35 summer reading program offered in accordance with subsection

1 2, paragraph "e".

2 Sec. 3. Section 279.68, subsection 2, paragraph e, Code
3 2017, is amended to read as follows:

4 e. Offer each summer, beginning in the summer of ~~2018~~
5 2019, unless the school district receives a waiver from this
6 requirement from the department of education ~~for the summer~~
7 ~~of 2018~~, an intensive summer reading program for students who
8 are persistently at risk in reading. The program shall meet
9 the criteria and follow the guidelines established pursuant to
10 section 256.9, subsection 49, paragraph "c", subparagraph (1),
11 subparagraph division (g).

12 EXPLANATION

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

15 This bill modifies provisions that require school districts
16 to retain in the third grade certain students, and adds a
17 provision to require school districts to offer, under certain
18 conditions, an intensive summer reading program for students in
19 kindergarten through grade two whose reading is deficient.

20 Currently, beginning in the summer of 2018, if a student is
21 not reading proficiently and is persistently at risk in reading
22 at the end of grade three, the school district, unless it has
23 obtained a waiver from the department of education, must notify
24 the student's parent or guardian that the parent or guardian
25 may enroll the student in an intensive summer reading program.
26 The bill delays the requirement until the summer of 2019 and
27 provides that notification must be in writing.

28 The bill also delays to 2019 provisions relating to a
29 requirement that school districts retain a student in grade
30 three if the student is persistently at risk in reading, the
31 student's parent or guardian did not enroll the student in an
32 intensive summer reading program, and the student does not
33 qualify for a good cause exemption.

34 The bill requires school districts to provide intensive
35 summer reading programs, beginning in the summer of 2019,

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1 for students who are enrolled in kindergarten through grade
2 two, but only if the general assembly appropriates funds for
3 the programs. For any year in which the general assembly
4 appropriates funds for such programs and the school district
5 has not obtained a waiver from the department of education, the
6 school district must notify the parent or guardian of a student
7 enrolled in kindergarten through grade two who is persistently
8 at risk in reading at the end of the school year that the parent
9 or guardian may enroll the student in an intensive summer
10 reading program.