

**Senate File 2222 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 2222

BY WAHLS

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act requiring the state board of education to establish a  
2 poverty weighting study committee.

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

1 Section 1. POVERTY WEIGHTING STUDY COMMITTEE.

2 1. According to the 2018 condition of education annual  
3 report, forty and one-half percent of Iowa students are  
4 eligible for free and reduced price meals under the federal  
5 National School Lunch Act and the federal Child Nutrition Act  
6 of 1966, 42 U.S.C. §1751-1785, the most widely used measure of  
7 student poverty. The percentage of students eligible for free  
8 and reduced price meals is up from twenty-seven percent in the  
9 2000-2001 school year.

10 2. Students from low-income households often lack  
11 educational resources and advantages that are common in more  
12 affluent households. In order to supplement the resources and  
13 opportunities for those students from low-income households,  
14 the state should study methods of providing additional funding  
15 to school districts for such students.

16 3. The school finance formula review committee established  
17 under section 257.1, subsection 4, met on December 13, 2019,  
18 and recommended to the general assembly the creation of a  
19 poverty weighting study committee.

20 4. The state board of education shall establish a study  
21 committee to make recommendations for funding methodologies to  
22 provide additional funding to school districts for students  
23 from low-income households. The department of education shall  
24 work cooperatively to provide staffing assistance for the study  
25 committee. A majority of the members of the study committee  
26 shall constitute a quorum. The study committee shall be  
27 composed of all of the following:

28 a. One member appointed by the Iowa association of school  
29 boards.

30 b. One member appointed by the urban education network.

31 c. One member appointed by the Iowa state education  
32 association.

33 d. One member appointed by the school administrators of  
34 Iowa.

35 e. One member who is a teacher, principal, or

1 superintendent, appointed by each of the eight school districts  
2 in the state with the highest percentage of students eligible  
3 for free and reduced price meals.

4 f. One member who is a teacher, principal, or  
5 superintendent, appointed by each of the eight school districts  
6 in the state with the highest percentage of limited English  
7 proficient students.

8 g. One member appointed by the director of the department of  
9 education representing an educator preparation program.

10 5. By January 15, 2021, the study committee shall submit  
11 recommendations to the general assembly for new or modified  
12 funding methodologies to provide additional funding for  
13 students from low-income households.

14 EXPLANATION

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

17 The school finance formula review committee established  
18 under Code section 257.1(4) met on December 13, 2019, and  
19 recommended to the general assembly the creation of a poverty  
20 weighting study committee. This bill directs the state  
21 board of education to establish a study committee to make  
22 recommendations for funding methodologies to provide additional  
23 funding for students from low-income households. The bill  
24 directs the department of education to work cooperatively  
25 to provide staffing assistance for the study committee and  
26 establishes the various persons comprising the study committee.  
27 By January 15, 2021, the study committee is required to submit  
28 recommendations to the general assembly for new or modified  
29 funding methodologies to provide additional funding for  
30 students from low-income households.