

Senate File 2253 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 2253
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO SF 2041)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to physical education and physical activities
2 requirements under the educational standards.

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

1 Section 1. Section 256.11, subsection 5, paragraph g,
2 subparagraph (1), Code 2020, is amended by adding the following
3 new subparagraph division:

4 NEW SUBPARAGRAPH DIVISION. (c) Show choir or marching
5 band, if the student's participation per week in show choir
6 or marching band is at least equivalent to the per-week
7 participation required for one-eighth unit of physical
8 education.

9 Sec. 2. Section 256.11, subsection 5, paragraph g,
10 subparagraph (2), Code 2020, is amended to read as follows:

11 (2) Students in grades nine through eleven may be excused
12 from the physical education requirement in order to enroll
13 in academic courses not otherwise available to the student
14 if the board of directors of the school district in which
15 the school is located, or the authorities in charge of the
16 school, if the school is a nonpublic school, determine that
17 students from the school may be permitted to be excused
18 from the physical education requirement. A student may be
19 excused by the principal of the school in which the student
20 is enrolled, in consultation with the student's counselor,
21 for up to one semester, trimester, or the equivalent of a
22 semester or trimester, per year if the parent or guardian of
23 the student requests in writing that the student be excused
24 from the physical education requirement. The student seeking
25 to be excused from the physical education requirement must, at
26 some time during the period for which the excuse is sought,
27 be a participant in show choir or marching band, or in an
28 organized and supervised athletic program, which requires at
29 least as much time of participation per week as one-eighth unit
30 of physical education.

31 Sec. 3. Section 256.11, subsection 6, paragraph b,
32 subparagraph (2), Code 2020, is amended to read as follows:

33 (2) All physically able students in grades six through
34 twelve shall be required to engage in a physical activity
35 for a minimum of one hundred twenty minutes per week. A

1 student participating in an organized and supervised athletic
2 program, show choir or marching band, or non-school-sponsored
3 extracurricular activity which requires the student to
4 participate in physical activity for a minimum of one hundred
5 twenty minutes per week is exempt from the requirements of this
6 subparagraph.

7 EXPLANATION

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

10 This bill permits a high school principal to excuse a high
11 school student from the physical education requirements under
12 the educational standards of Code section 256.11 if the student
13 is participating in show choir or marching band for at least
14 the equivalent amount of time as is required for one-eighth
15 unit of physical education. The bill also exempts from
16 physical activity requirements middle school and high school
17 students who participate in show choir or marching band.

18 For a student in grades 9 through 11, the student must be
19 seeking the excuse in order to enroll in academic courses not
20 otherwise available to the student, the principal must consult
21 with the student's counselor, and the student can only be
22 excused for one semester, or the equivalent, per school year.

23 For a student in grade 12, the student may be excused for two
24 semesters or the equivalent.