

House File 2029 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2029

BY ISENHART

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to outdoor education and recreation programs
2 serving youth, and making appropriations.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 456A.39 No child left inside
2 program — fund created — appropriation.

3 1. The director shall establish and administer a no
4 child left inside program to provide grants for outdoor
5 environmental, ecological, and other natural resource-based
6 education and recreation programs serving youth.

7 2. The director may award grants under this section to
8 public school districts or private nonprofit organizations.

9 3. *a.* In awarding grants under this section, the director
10 shall give preference to programs that satisfy the following
11 priorities:

12 (1) Provides students with opportunities to directly
13 experience and understand nature and the natural world.

14 (2) Uses a research-based, effective environmental,
15 ecological, or other natural resource-based educational
16 curriculum.

17 (3) Maximizes the number of participants that can be served.

18 (4) Serves children with limited opportunities to
19 participate in natural resource-based outdoor activities.

20 (5) Uses public park and other natural resource venues and
21 personnel as a resource.

22 (6) Commits to matching funds or in-kind resources.

23 *b.* In addition to considering the preferences in paragraph
24 "*a*", the director shall ensure that at least fifty percent of
25 the moneys of each grant awarded to a program benefit students
26 attending schools that qualify for funding under Tit. I of the
27 federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

28 4. *a.* An outdoor education and recreation fund is
29 established in the state treasury under the control of the
30 department. The fund shall consist of moneys deposited
31 in the fund from appropriations, gifts, grants, and other
32 contributions. Moneys in the fund are appropriated to the
33 department for the purpose of issuing grants as part of the
34 no child left inside program. Notwithstanding section 8.33,
35 moneys in the fund that remain unencumbered or unobligated

1 at the close of a fiscal year shall not revert but shall
2 remain available for expenditure for the purpose designated.
3 Notwithstanding section 12C.7, subsection 2, interest or
4 earnings on moneys in the fund shall be credited to the fund.
5 *b.* The fund may consist of moneys that are deposited in
6 the fund prior to July 1, 2024, from moneys received by the
7 state from the elementary and secondary school emergency relief
8 fund created pursuant to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and
9 Economic Security Act, Pub. L. No. 116-136, as amended by the
10 Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, Pub. L. No. 116-260,
11 and from moneys received by the state under the American Rescue
12 Plan Act of 2021, Pub. L. No. 117-2, unless the governor
13 determines such deposit to be contrary to federal guidelines or
14 regulations. Any moneys deposited pursuant to this paragraph
15 shall be used for the purpose of issuing grants as part of the
16 no child left inside program prior to using moneys deposited to
17 the fund from the general fund.
18 *c.* For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022, and for each
19 fiscal year thereafter, there is appropriated from the general
20 fund of the state to the outdoor education and recreation fund
21 established in paragraph "a" the sum of one million dollars.
22 At least fifty percent of the moneys appropriated under this
23 paragraph shall be used to provide grants to benefit students
24 attending schools that qualify for funding under Tit. I of the
25 federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

26 EXPLANATION

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

29 This bill relates to outdoor education and recreation
30 programs serving youth. The bill requires the director of
31 the department of natural resources (DNR) to establish and
32 administer a no child left inside program to provide grants for
33 outdoor environmental, ecological, and other natural resource-
34 based education and recreation programs serving youth. The
35 director may award grants to public school districts or private

1 nonprofit organizations, with preference given to programs that
2 satisfy certain priorities. The director shall also ensure
3 that at least 50 percent of the moneys of each grant awarded to
4 a program benefit students attending schools that qualify for
5 funding under Title I of the federal Elementary and Secondary
6 Education Act of 1965.

7 The bill establishes an outdoor education and recreation
8 fund in the state treasury under the control of DNR. The
9 fund shall consist of moneys deposited in the fund from
10 appropriations, gifts, grants, and other contributions, but may
11 also consist of moneys that are deposited in the fund prior
12 to July 1, 2024, from moneys received by the state from the
13 elementary and secondary school emergency relief fund created
14 pursuant to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security
15 Act and from moneys received by the state under the American
16 Rescue Plan Act of 2021, unless the governor determines such
17 deposit to be contrary to federal guidelines or regulations.
18 Any moneys deposited from either federal source shall be used
19 for the purpose of issuing grants as part of the no child left
20 inside program prior to using moneys deposited to the fund from
21 the general fund.

22 For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022, and each fiscal
23 year thereafter, the bill makes an appropriation of \$1 million
24 from the general fund to the outdoor education and recreation
25 fund. At least 50 percent of the moneys appropriated shall
26 be used to provide grants to benefit students attending
27 schools that qualify for funding under Title I of the federal
28 Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.