

House Study Bill 705 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE
ON EDUCATION BILL BY
CHAIRPERSON HITE)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to education, including modifying provisions
2 related to open enrollment, teacher librarian endorsements,
3 and the placement of children identified as requiring
4 special education in competent private instruction.
5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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DIVISION I

PRIVATE INSTRUCTION — SPECIAL EDUCATION

Section 1. Section 299A.9, subsection 1, Code 2022, is amended to read as follows:

1. A child of compulsory attendance age who is identified as requiring special education under [chapter 256B](#) is eligible for placement under competent private instruction ~~with prior approval of the placement by the director of special education of the area education agency of the child's district of~~ residence.

Sec. 2. Section 299A.9, Code 2022, is amended by adding the following new subsection:

NEW SUBSECTION. 3. The parent, guardian, or legal custodian of a child who is identified as requiring special education may request dual enrollment pursuant to section 299A.8. The appropriate special education services for the child shall be determined pursuant to [chapter 256B](#) and rules adopted pursuant to [chapter 256B](#).

DIVISION II

OPEN ENROLLMENT

Sec. 3. Section 282.18, subsection 5, Code 2022, is amended to read as follows:

5. a. Open enrollment applications filed after March 1 of the preceding school year that do not qualify for good cause as provided in [subsection 4](#) shall be subject to the approval of the board of the resident district and the board of the receiving district. The parent or guardian shall send notification to the district of residence and the receiving district that the parent or guardian seeks to enroll the parent's or guardian's child in the receiving district.

b. A decision of either board to deny an application filed under [this subsection](#) involving repeated acts of harassment of the student that the resident district cannot adequately address, a consistent failure of the resident district to reasonably respond to a student's failure to meet basic

1 academic standards after notice provided by a parent or
2 guardian, or a serious health condition of the student that
3 the resident district cannot adequately address is subject to
4 appeal under [section 290.1](#). A decision of either board to
5 deny an application filed under this subsection related to the
6 sibling or stepsibling of a student described in this paragraph
7 is also subject to appeal under section 290.1.

8 c. The state board shall adopt by rule the criteria
9 for determining a resident district's consistent failure
10 to reasonably respond to a student's failure to meet basic
11 academic standards and shall exercise broad discretion to
12 achieve just and equitable results that are in the best
13 interest of the affected child or children.

14 Sec. 4. Section 282.18, subsection 11, paragraph a, Code
15 2022, is amended by adding the following new subparagraph:

16 NEW SUBPARAGRAPH. (08) If the pupil participates in
17 open enrollment because the pupil's sibling or stepsibling
18 participates in open enrollment as a result of the sibling
19 or stepsibling's appeal under section 282.18, subsection 5,
20 paragraph "b".

21 DIVISION III

22 TEACHER LIBRARIANS

23 Sec. 5. Section 256.11, subsection 9, Code 2022, is amended
24 to read as follows:

25 9. Beginning July 1, 2006, each school district shall have a
26 qualified teacher librarian who shall be licensed by the board
27 of educational examiners under [chapter 272](#). Such license shall
28 not require the completion of a master's degree. The state
29 board shall establish in rule a definition of and standards for
30 an articulated sequential kindergarten through grade twelve
31 media program. A school district that entered into a contract
32 with an individual for employment as a media specialist or
33 librarian prior to June 1, 2006, shall be considered to be
34 in compliance with [this subsection](#) until June 30, 2011, if
35 the individual is making annual progress toward meeting the

1 requirements for a teacher librarian endorsement issued by the
2 board of educational examiners under [chapter 272](#). A school
3 district that entered into a contract with an individual for
4 employment as a media specialist or librarian who holds at
5 least a master's degree in library and information studies
6 shall be considered to be in compliance with [this subsection](#)
7 until the individual leaves the employ of the school district.

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EXPLANATION

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

11 This bill relates to education by modifying provisions
12 related to open enrollment, teacher librarian endorsements,
13 and the placement of children identified as requiring special
14 education in competent private instruction.

15 DIVISION I — PRIVATE INSTRUCTION — SPECIAL EDUCATION. The
16 bill provides that a child of compulsory attendance age who
17 is identified as requiring special education is eligible for
18 placement under competent private instruction without prior
19 approval of the placement by the director of special education
20 of an area education agency. The bill also provides that a
21 child who is identified as requiring special education may
22 request dual enrollment and the appropriate special education
23 services for the child shall be determined pursuant to Code
24 chapter 256B (special education).

25 DIVISION II— OPEN ENROLLMENT. Current law provides
26 that the decision of the board of a resident school district
27 or receiving school district to deny an open enrollment
28 application filed after March 1 of the preceding school year
29 that involves repeated acts of harassment of the student that
30 the resident district cannot adequately address, a consistent
31 failure of the resident district to reasonably respond to a
32 student's failure to meet basic academic standards after notice
33 provided by a parent or guardian, or a serious health condition
34 of the student that the resident district cannot adequately
35 address is subject to appeal under Code section 290.1. The

1 bill provides that this right of appeal also applies to a
2 decision of either board to deny an open enrollment application
3 related to the sibling or stepsibling of such a student.
4 Additionally, the bill authorizes the sibling or stepsibling of
5 such a student, attending a grade in grades 9 through 12, who
6 does participate in open enrollment to participate immediately
7 in a varsity interscholastic sport.

8 DIVISION III — TEACHER LIBRARIANS. The bill removes the
9 requirement that the holder of a teacher librarian endorsement
10 have a master's degree.