

Senate File 89 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 89

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A BILL FOR

1 An Act requiring cursive instruction for students enrolled in
2 public elementary schools.

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

1 Section 1. Section 256.11, subsection 3, Code 2021, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 3. The following areas shall be taught in grades one through
4 six: English-language arts, social studies, mathematics,
5 science, health, age-appropriate and research-based human
6 growth and development, physical education, traffic safety,
7 music, and visual art. Computer science instruction
8 incorporating the standards established under section 256.7,
9 subsection 26, paragraph "a", subparagraph (4), shall be
10 offered in at least one grade level commencing with the school
11 year beginning July 1, 2023. The health curriculum shall
12 include the characteristics of communicable diseases including
13 acquired immune deficiency syndrome. Each school district
14 shall incorporate cursive handwriting instruction into the
15 curriculum with the goal of making students proficient in
16 reading cursive and legibly writing in cursive by the end of
17 the third grade. The state board as part of accreditation
18 standards shall adopt curriculum definitions for implementing
19 the elementary program.

20 Sec. 2. STATE MANDATE FUNDING SPECIFIED. In accordance
21 with section 25B.2, subsection 3, the state cost of requiring
22 compliance with any state mandate included in this Act shall
23 be paid by a school district from state school foundation aid
24 received by the school district under section 257.16. This
25 specification of the payment of the state cost shall be deemed
26 to meet all of the state funding-related requirements of
27 section 25B.2, subsection 3, and no additional state funding
28 shall be necessary for the full implementation of this Act
29 by and enforcement of this Act against all affected school
30 districts.

31 EXPLANATION

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

34 This bill requires school districts to incorporate cursive
35 handwriting instruction into the curriculum with the goal of

1 making students proficient in reading cursive and legibly
2 writing in cursive by the end of the third grade. The
3 provisions of the bill do not apply to nonpublic schools.
4 The bill may include a state mandate as defined in Code
5 section 25B.3. The bill requires that the state cost of
6 any state mandate included in the bill be paid by a school
7 district from state school foundation aid received by the
8 school district under Code section 257.16. The specification
9 is deemed to constitute state compliance with any state mandate
10 funding-related requirements of Code section 25B.2. The
11 inclusion of this specification is intended to reinstate the
12 requirement of political subdivisions to comply with any state
13 mandates included in the bill.