

House File 2178 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2178

BY LEVIN, KURTH, BAGNIEWSKI,
STAED, BROWN-POWERS,
EHLERT, SRINIVAS, CAHILL,
WILBURN, FORBES, MADISON,
JAMES, SCHOLTEN, and
WESSEL-KROESCHELL

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to required guidance counselor staffing in
2 school districts.

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

1 Section 1. Section 256.11, subsection 9A, Code 2024, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 9A. ~~Beginning July 1, 2007, each~~ Each school district shall
4 have a qualified guidance counselor who shall be licensed
5 by the board of educational examiners under subchapter VII,
6 part 3. Each school district shall ~~work toward the goal of~~
7 ~~having~~ have one qualified guidance counselor for every ~~three~~
8 two hundred fifty students enrolled in the school district.
9 The state board shall establish in rule a definition of and
10 standards for an articulated sequential kindergarten through
11 grade twelve guidance and counseling program. The program
12 shall be designed to ensure that the guidance counselor can
13 work collaboratively with students, teachers, support staff,
14 and administrators to support the curricular goals of the
15 school by offering responsive services that address the growth
16 and development needs of students and the attainment of student
17 competencies in academic, career, and social areas.

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

29

EXPLANATION

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

32 This bill strikes a directive for each school district to
33 work toward the goal of having one qualified guidance counselor
34 for every 350 students enrolled in the school district and
35 instead requires each school district to have one qualified

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1 guidance counselor for every 250 students enrolled in the
2 school district.

3 The bill may include a state mandate as defined in Code
4 section 25B.3. The bill requires that the state cost of
5 any state mandate included in the bill be paid by a school
6 district from state school foundation aid received by the
7 school district under Code section 257.16. The specification
8 is deemed to constitute state compliance with any state
9 mandate funding-related requirements of Code section 25B.2.
10 The inclusion of this specification is intended to reinstate
11 the requirement of school districts to comply with any state
12 mandates included in the bill.