

**House File 2653 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 2653

BY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 728)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to school districts, including by modifying  
2 provisions related to the district management levy, waiving  
3 certain specified duties, responsibilities, and requirements  
4 for the school year beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June  
5 30, 2024, and including effective date provisions.

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

1 Section 1. Section 298.4, subsection 1, Code 2024, is  
2 amended by adding the following new paragraph:

3 NEW PARAGRAPH. *g.* (1) To pay the costs of retention bonus  
4 payments to employees for the school year beginning July 1,  
5 2024, if the school district is the subject of a proclamation  
6 of disaster emergency issued by the governor on January 8,  
7 2024, and the school district is located in a county with a  
8 population of greater than ninety-nine thousand five hundred  
9 but less than one hundred thousand, a county with a population  
10 of greater than twenty-six thousand but less than twenty-seven  
11 thousand, and a county with a population of greater than eight  
12 thousand seven hundred sixty but less than eight thousand eight  
13 hundred, all according to the 2020 federal decennial census.

14 (2) Notwithstanding subparagraph (1), a school district  
15 shall not pay more than seven hundred thousand dollars under  
16 this paragraph.

17 (3) A school district shall not increase the amount of the  
18 district management levy to make the payments described in this  
19 paragraph.

20 (4) This paragraph is repealed July 1, 2025.

21 Sec. 2. WAIVER OF REQUIREMENTS.

22 1. For the school year beginning July 1, 2023, and ending  
23 June 30, 2024, for a school district that is the subject of  
24 a proclamation of disaster emergency issued by the governor  
25 on January 8, 2024, and that is located in a county with a  
26 population of greater than ninety-nine thousand five hundred  
27 but less than one hundred thousand, a county with a population  
28 of greater than twenty-six thousand but less than twenty-seven  
29 thousand, and a county with a population of greater than eight  
30 thousand seven hundred sixty but less than eight thousand eight  
31 hundred, all according to the 2020 federal decennial census,  
32 all of the following duties, responsibilities, and requirements  
33 shall be deemed not to apply, and the state board of education  
34 and department of education shall waive all such duties,  
35 responsibilities, and requirements:

1 a. The administration of any assessment described in  
2 section 256.7, subsection 21, paragraph "b".

3 b. The high school graduation requirements adopted pursuant  
4 to section 256.7, subsection 26.

5 c. The administration of any assessment described in  
6 section 256.11, subsection 5, paragraph "b".

7 d. The required days or hours of instruction described in  
8 section 279.10.

9 e. The administration of any assessment described in  
10 section 279.60, subsection 1 or 3.

11 f. The administration of any assessment described in  
12 section 279.68.

13 g. The administration of any assessment related to English  
14 learners.

15 h. Any reporting requirement related to accreditation.

16 i. The administration of any requirement related to dynamic  
17 learning assessments.

18 j. The administration of any assessment related to  
19 mathematics, reading, or early literacy.

20 2. This section shall not be construed to waive any duty,  
21 responsibility, or requirement established under federal law,  
22 rule, or regulation.

23 3. The director of the department of education shall work  
24 with the United States department of education and attempt to  
25 obtain appropriate waivers of duties, responsibilities, and  
26 requirements established under federal law, rule, or regulation  
27 for a school district described in subsection 1.

28 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act, being deemed of immediate  
29 importance, takes effect upon enactment.

30 EXPLANATION

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

33 This bill relates to school districts, including by  
34 modifying provisions related to the district management levy  
35 and waiving certain specified duties, responsibilities, and

1 requirements for the school year beginning July 1, 2023, and  
2 ending June 30, 2024.

3 The bill authorizes school districts to use the revenue from  
4 the district management levy to pay the costs of retention  
5 bonus payment to employees for the school year beginning  
6 July 1, 2024, if the school district is the subject of a  
7 proclamation of disaster emergency issued by the governor on  
8 January 8, 2024, and the school district is located in a county  
9 with a population of greater than 99,500 but less than 100,000,  
10 a county with a population of greater than 26,000 but less than  
11 27,000, and a county with a population of greater than 8,760  
12 but less than 8,800. The bill provides that a school district  
13 shall not expend more than \$700,000 under this provision and  
14 shall not increase the amount of the district management levy  
15 in order to make the retention bonus payments. The bill  
16 establishes that this provision is repealed July 1, 2025.

17 The bill provides that for the school year beginning July  
18 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024, for a school district  
19 that is the subject of a proclamation of disaster emergency  
20 issued by the governor on January 8, 2024, and that is located  
21 in a county with a population of greater than 99,500 but  
22 less than 100,000, a county with a population of greater  
23 than 26,000 but less than 27,000, and a county with a  
24 population of greater than 8,760 but less than 8,800, certain  
25 specified duties, responsibilities, and requirements shall  
26 be deemed not to apply, including duties, responsibilities,  
27 and requirements related to assessments, days or hours of  
28 attendance, and graduation requirements. The bill provides  
29 that these provisions shall not be construed to waive any  
30 duty, responsibility, or requirement established under  
31 federal law. The bill requires the director of the department  
32 of education to work with the United States department of  
33 education and attempt to obtain appropriate waivers of duties,  
34 responsibilities, and requirements established under federal  
35 law for such a school district.

1 The bill takes effect upon enactment.