

**House File 383 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 383

BY SORENSEN

(COMPANION TO SF 258 BY  
DONAHUE)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act providing for boards of directors of school districts to  
2 include nonvoting student representatives.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 256.9, Code 2023, is amended by adding  
2 the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 66. Develop and distribute to all school  
4 districts a model program for the effective incorporation of  
5 a student who is appointed to serve on the board of directors  
6 of a school district as a nonvoting student representative  
7 pursuant to section 279.4A. The model program shall include  
8 suggested methods for an application and selection process for  
9 the position of nonvoting student representative.

10 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. **279.4A Nonvoting student**  
11 **representative.**

12 1. The board of directors of each school district shall  
13 appoint at least one nonvoting student representative to serve  
14 on the board of directors for a term of one year if the student  
15 is enrolled in grade eleven or for a term of two years if the  
16 student is enrolled in grade ten. The board of directors of  
17 a school district shall develop an application and selection  
18 process based on the model program developed pursuant to  
19 section 256.9, subsection 66.

20 2. A nonvoting student representative shall have a seat  
21 at the table of all board meetings and board subcommittee  
22 meetings, shall have access to all nonconfidential board  
23 meeting materials, and shall be allowed to participate in any  
24 orientation provided to administrators or members of the board  
25 of directors.

26 3. A nonvoting student representative may advocate  
27 for student interests in board meetings, provide school  
28 administrators and board members with student viewpoints,  
29 assist in developing and monitoring the implementation of  
30 education policy, and volunteer to perform other functions of  
31 benefit to the students and the school district that the board  
32 deems appropriate for the nonvoting student representative to  
33 carry out.

34 4. Students enrolled in a school district in either grade  
35 ten or eleven may apply to the board of directors of the school

1 district to serve as a nonvoting student representative.

2 5. A vacancy in the position of a nonvoting student  
3 representative shall not be filled until the expiration of the  
4 nonvoting student representative's term.

5 6. The board of directors of a school district shall notify  
6 the parents or guardians of a nonvoting student representative  
7 if the nonvoting student representative's grade point average  
8 falls during the period in which the nonvoting student  
9 representative serves on the board of directors of the school  
10 district.

11 7. A nonvoting student representative shall have been  
12 enrolled in the school district for at least one year prior to  
13 the student representative's appointment.

14 EXPLANATION

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

17 This bill provides for boards of directors of school  
18 districts to include nonvoting student representatives.

19 The bill requires the board of directors of each  
20 school district to appoint at least one nonvoting student  
21 representative to serve on the board for a term of one year if  
22 the student is enrolled in grade 11 or for a term of two years  
23 if the student is enrolled in grade 10. The bill also requires  
24 the board to develop an application and selection process for  
25 the nonvoting student representative that is based on a model  
26 program the bill requires the director of the department of  
27 education to develop.

28 The bill provides that a nonvoting student representative  
29 shall have a seat at the table of all board meetings and board  
30 subcommittee meetings, have access to all nonconfidential  
31 board meeting materials, and be allowed to participate  
32 in any orientation provided to administrators or members  
33 of the board. The bill authorizes a nonvoting student  
34 representative to advocate for student interests in board  
35 meetings, provide school administrators and board members with

1 student viewpoints, assist in developing and monitoring the  
2 implementation of education policy, and volunteer to perform  
3 other functions of benefit to the students and the school  
4 district.

5 The bill provides that students enrolled in a school  
6 district in either grade 10 or 11 may apply to the board to  
7 serve as a nonvoting student representative. Additionally, the  
8 bill provides that a vacancy in the position of a nonvoting  
9 student representative shall not be filled until the expiration  
10 of the nonvoting student representative's term.

11 The bill requires the board to notify the parents or  
12 guardians of a nonvoting student representative if the  
13 nonvoting student representative's grade point average falls  
14 during the period in which the nonvoting student representative  
15 serves on the board.

16 The bill provides that a nonvoting student representative  
17 shall have been enrolled in the school district for at least  
18 one year prior to the student representative's appointment.