

**House File 500 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 500

BY GAINES, BUCK, and STAED

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act directing the department of education, in consultation  
2 with the board of educational examiners, to convene a  
3 working group to study the need for additional diversity and  
4 cultural competency training for teachers.  
5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION — DIVERSITY AND  
2 CULTURAL COMPETENCY TRAINING FOR TEACHERS.

3 1. The department of education, in consultation with the  
4 board of educational examiners, shall convene and provide  
5 administrative support to a working group that shall study the  
6 need for additional diversity and cultural competency training  
7 for teachers beyond the current mandated instruction.

8 2. Any expenses incurred by a member of the working group  
9 shall be the responsibility of the individual member or the  
10 respective entity represented by the member.

11 3. The working group shall submit its findings and  
12 recommendations in a report to the general assembly by December  
13 31, 2023. The report shall include recommendations related to  
14 how to improve teacher training beyond the current mandated  
15 instruction for initial teacher licensure and continuing  
16 teacher licensure.

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EXPLANATION

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

20 This bill directs the department of education, in  
21 consultation with the board of educational examiners, to  
22 convene a working group to study the need for additional  
23 diversity and cultural competency training for teachers beyond  
24 the current mandated instruction. The bill provides that any  
25 expenses incurred by a member of the working group shall be  
26 the responsibility of the individual member or the respective  
27 entity represented by the member.

28 The bill requires the working group to submit its findings  
29 and recommendations in a report to the general assembly by  
30 December 31, 2023. The bill establishes that the report is  
31 required to include recommendations related to how to improve  
32 teacher training beyond the current mandated instruction for  
33 initial teacher licensure and continuing teacher licensure.