

House File 611 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 611
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 390)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to physical activity requirements applicable to
2 students enrolled in public schools, accredited nonpublic
3 schools, and charter schools in kindergarten through grade
4 five.

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

1 Section 1. Section 256.11, subsection 6, paragraph b,
2 subparagraph (1), Code 2023, is amended to read as follows:

3 (1) All physically able students in kindergarten through
4 grade five who are not suspended or expelled shall be required
5 to engage in a physical activity for a minimum of thirty
6 minutes per school day. The physical education curriculum
7 required under subsection 3, if applicable, may be used to
8 fulfill the requirements of this subparagraph. A school shall
9 not prevent a student from engaging in a physical activity
10 as required in this subparagraph unless one of the following
11 applies:

12 (a) The student poses a danger to the health or safety of a
13 school employee, contractor, or another student.

14 (b) Due to inclement weather, the school relocates physical
15 activity that was to take place outdoors.

16 (c) The school dismisses classes early due to unforeseen
17 circumstances, including inclement weather and loss of
18 utilities services.

19 (d) The student is absent from school, including due to
20 illness or a medical appointment, during the time of the school
21 day that the school provides for the student's class to engage
22 in physical activity.

23 EXPLANATION

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

26 This bill relates to physical activity requirements
27 applicable to students enrolled in public schools, accredited
28 nonpublic schools, and charter schools in kindergarten through
29 grade five.

30 Current law requires all physically able students in
31 kindergarten through grade five to engage in a physical
32 activity for a minimum of 30 minutes per school day, which
33 may include physical education. The bill provides that
34 physical education may be used to meet this physical activity
35 requirement.

1 The bill provides that the physical activity requirement
2 shall not apply when a student is suspended or expelled. The
3 bill also provides that a school shall not prevent a student
4 from engaging in 30 minutes of physical activity per school
5 day unless the student poses a danger to the health or safety
6 of certain specified persons, the school relocates physical
7 activity that was to take place outdoors due to inclement
8 weather, the school dismisses classes early due to unforeseen
9 circumstances, or the student is absent from school, including
10 due to illness or a medical appointment, during the time of the
11 school day that the school provides for the student's class to
12 engage in physical activity.