

House File 2002 - Introduced

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BY GEARHART

A BILL FOR

1 An Act requiring the legislative council to enter into an
2 agreement with a qualified person to conduct a review of
3 Iowa's public education system, and including effective date
4 provisions.

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

unofficial

1 Section 1. COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF IOWA'S PUBLIC EDUCATION
2 SYSTEM.

3 1. The legislative council shall enter into an agreement
4 with a qualified person to conduct a comprehensive review of
5 Iowa's prekindergarten through grade twelve public education
6 system. For purposes of this section, "qualified person" means
7 an independent, nonpartisan individual, research organization,
8 or educational think tank, that is not affiliated with, or
9 represented by, any political party, special interest group, or
10 Iowa school district.

11 2. a. The qualified person's comprehensive review of Iowa's
12 prekindergarten through grade twelve public education system
13 shall include all of the following:

14 (1) An examination of trends in Iowa's public education
15 system over at least the previous thirty years to determine the
16 factors that contributed to the changes in the quality of Iowa's
17 public education relative to other states.

18 (2) A full audit of Iowa's funding of public education
19 funding sources and expenditures.

20 (3) An evaluation of the existing funding streams used by the
21 Iowa public education system.

22 (4) A proposal related to simplifying the funding streams
23 used by the Iowa public education system and distributing moneys
24 more effectively and equitably.

25 (5) Identification of potential cost-saving measures that
26 maintain or improve the educational outcomes of students enrolled
27 in Iowa's public education system.

28 (6) An assessment of the current structure of school
29 districts to determine whether a realignment is necessary based
30 on student population and regional needs.

31 (7) An analysis of the potential impact of school district
32 realignment on transportation costs, staffing, and student
33 performance.

34 (8) Proper consideration for the different needs of schools
35 in rural areas and schools in urban areas.

1 (9) An evaluation of the financial and operational challenges
2 that are unique to schools in rural areas and schools in urban
3 areas.

4 (10) A proposal for equitable funding and policy solutions
5 for schools in rural areas and schools in urban areas.

6 (11) Input from Iowa's teachers, administrators, and other
7 education professionals.

8 (12) A study of high-quality public education systems in
9 other countries to determine policies or strategies that could be
10 incorporated into Iowa's public education system.

11 (13) Proper consideration of evidence-based teaching models
12 and other methods to improve curricula.

13 (14) An exploration of potential areas of innovation that
14 could be pursued to provide transformative solutions to
15 improve Iowa's public education system, which shall include an
16 exploration of all of the following:

17 (a) Alternative education models such as competency-based
18 learning, microschoools, and hybrid education systems.

19 (b) The role of technology in modernizing education,
20 including using artificial intelligence to provide personalized
21 learning experiences.

22 (c) Utilizing different teacher training and credentialing
23 models to attract and retain high-quality educators.

24 (d) Alternative funding mechanisms, including
25 performance-based funding and public-private partnerships.

26 (e) Innovative school structures that optimize learning
27 environments.

28 b. The qualified person shall provide periodic updates to
29 the legislative council while conducting the comprehensive review
30 of Iowa's prekindergarten through grade twelve public education
31 system.

32 c. After conducting the comprehensive review of Iowa's
33 prekindergarten through grade twelve public education system,
34 the qualified person shall prepare a report containing findings
35 and recommendations. The recommendations must be based on

1 the qualified person's research and shall not be influenced by
2 current educators or administrative bodies. The report must also
3 contain all of the following:

4 (1) Clear, actionable recommendations that, if adopted, would
5 improve student outcomes, operational efficiency, and funding
6 mechanisms.

7 (2) Short-term and long-term strategies for reform, the
8 estimated costs associated with the short-term and long-term
9 strategies, and the funding sources that could be used to support
10 the short-term and long-term strategies.

11 (3) Multiple strategies to reform Iowa's public education
12 system, including strategies for incremental improvements and
13 strategies for transformative changes.

14 d. The qualified person shall file the report with the
15 general assembly on or before January 1, 2027, which shall be
16 made available on the general assembly's internet site.

17 3. After the qualified person files the report with the
18 general assembly, the majority leader of the senate and the
19 speaker of the house of representatives shall arrange for the
20 qualified person to present the final report in a joint session
21 of the general assembly.

22 4. After the qualified person files the report with the
23 general assembly, the chairperson of the senate committee on
24 education and the chairperson of the house committee on education
25 shall arrange for public forums to discuss the report, gather
26 feedback on proposed changes to Iowa's public education system,
27 and determine appropriate steps for implementation of the
28 recommendations in the report, including the potential creation
29 of pilot programs.

30 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act, being deemed of immediate
31 importance, takes effect upon enactment.

32 EXPLANATION

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

35 This bill requires the legislative council to enter into an

1 agreement with a qualified person to conduct a review of Iowa's
2 public education system.

3 The bill defines "qualified person" to mean an independent,
4 nonpartisan individual, research organization, or educational
5 think tank, that is not affiliated with, or represented by,
6 any political party, special interest group, or Iowa school
7 district. The bill requires the legislative council to enter
8 into an agreement with a qualified person to conduct a
9 comprehensive review of Iowa's prekindergarten through grade
10 12 public education system. The bill establishes what the
11 comprehensive review is required to include.

12 The bill requires the qualified person to provide periodic
13 updates to the legislative council while conducting the
14 comprehensive review. After conducting the comprehensive review,
15 the qualified person is required to prepare a report containing
16 findings and recommendations and file the report with the general
17 assembly on or before January 1, 2027.

18 After the qualified person files the report with the general
19 assembly, the bill requires the majority leader of the senate and
20 the speaker of the house of representatives to arrange for the
21 qualified person to present the final report in a joint session
22 of the general assembly. Additionally, the chairperson of the
23 senate committee on education and the chairperson of the house
24 committee on education are required to arrange for public forums
25 to discuss the report, gather feedback on proposed changes to
26 Iowa's public education system, and determine appropriate steps
27 for implementation of the recommendations in the report.

28 The bill takes effect upon enactment.