

## House File 251 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 251

BY LEVIN, WILSON, TUREK,  
EHLERT, MATSON, COOLING,  
SCHEETZ, KURTH, B. MEYER,  
WESSEL-KROESCHELL, JAMES,  
McBURNEY, SRINIVAS, MADISON,  
KONFRST, WICHTENDAHL,  
WILBURN, GJERDE, JUDGE,  
OLSON, BROWN-POWERS,  
BAGNIEWSKI, AMOS JR.,  
SCHOLTEN, ZABNER, R. JOHNSON,  
JACOBY, GAINES, NIELSEN,  
KRESSIG, CROKEN, GOSA, and  
BAETH

### A BILL FOR

1 An Act requiring the state board of education to publish  
2 information related to nonpublic schools that are accredited  
3 by an approved independent accrediting agency.  
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 256.11, subsection 16, paragraph a, Code  
2 2025, is amended to read as follows:

3 a. Notwithstanding subsections 1 through 12, a nonpublic  
4 school may be accredited by an approved independent accrediting  
5 agency instead of by the state board as provided in this  
6 subsection. The state board shall maintain a list of  
7 approved independent accrediting agencies comprised of at least  
8 six regional or national nonprofit, nongovernmental agencies  
9 recognized as reliable authorities concerning the quality of  
10 education offered by a school and shall publish the list of  
11 independent accrediting agencies on the department's internet  
12 site. The list shall include accrediting agencies that, as of  
13 January 1, 2013, accredited a nonpublic school in this state that  
14 was concurrently accredited under this section; and any agency  
15 that has a formalized partnership agreement with another agency  
16 on the list and has member schools in this state as of January 1,  
17 2013. The list shall also include each nonpublic school that is  
18 accredited by an approved independent accrediting agency pursuant  
19 to this paragraph, a description of the educational standards  
20 that the approved independent accrediting agency required the  
21 nonpublic school to meet in order to attain accreditation, and  
22 any amendments or waivers to the educational standards that each  
23 school received. The state board shall update the list annually,  
24 on or before June 30 of each year.

25 EXPLANATION

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

28 This bill requires the state board of education to publish  
29 information related to nonpublic schools that are accredited by  
30 an approved independent accrediting agency.

31 Under current law, nonpublic schools in Iowa may be accredited  
32 by the department of education (DE) or by an independent  
33 accrediting agency that has been approved by DE. Also under  
34 current law, the state board of education is required to publish  
35 a list of the approved independent accrediting agencies on DE's

1 internet site. The bill requires the list to include each  
2 nonpublic school that is accredited by an approved independent  
3 accrediting agency, a description of the educational standards  
4 that the approved independent accrediting agency required the  
5 nonpublic school to meet in order to attain accreditation, and  
6 any amendments or waivers to the educational standards that each  
7 school received. The state board is required to update the list  
8 annually.

unofficial