

House File 369 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 369
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 33)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing an agriculture education grant program within
2 the department of education and making appropriations.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. **256.20 Agriculture education grant**
2 **program.**

3 1. As used in this section:

4 a. "*Agriculture education program*" means all of the
5 following:

6 (1) Instructional programs provided by school districts
7 to students enrolled in grades nine through twelve under
8 section 256.11, subsection 5, paragraph "h", subparagraph (1),
9 subparagraph division (a).

10 (2) Programs for career and technical education in
11 agriculture technology provided by school districts to students
12 under section 280.20.

13 b. "*Personal services costs*" means the costs associated
14 with a school district employing a teacher for a maximum of
15 sixty days of additional instruction outside of the teacher's
16 regularly scheduled teaching duties to provide instruction in an
17 agriculture education program.

18 2. The department shall establish an agriculture education
19 grant program to expand student access to instruction related to
20 agriculture, food, and natural resources.

21 3. A school district may apply to the department for grants
22 under this section to offset the personal services costs
23 associated with employing teachers to provide instruction in an
24 agriculture education program. The maximum annual amount of a
25 grant the department may award to a school district under this
26 section shall not exceed:

27 a. One hundred percent of the personal services costs
28 associated with a teacher providing instruction in an agriculture
29 education program if the school district's agriculture education
30 program has existed for less than ten consecutive years.

31 b. Fifty percent of the personal services cost associated
32 with a teacher providing instruction in an agriculture education
33 program for all other programs.

34 4. Moneys awarded under this section shall be used to
35 supplement, not supplant, existing public funding used by a

1 school district for similar purposes.

2 5. The department shall develop and make available to school
3 districts a statewide system to track the time teachers devote to
4 instruction facilitated by grants provided under this section.

5 6. An agriculture education grant program fund is established
6 in the state treasury. The fund shall be administered by
7 the department and shall consist of moneys appropriated by the
8 general assembly and any other moneys received by the department
9 for deposit in the fund. The moneys in the fund are appropriated
10 to the department for the agriculture education grant program.
11 Notwithstanding section 8.33, moneys in the fund at the close
12 of the fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund of
13 the state but shall remain available for expenditure for the
14 agriculture education grant program for subsequent fiscal years.
15 Notwithstanding section 12C.7, subsection 2, interest or earnings
16 on moneys in the fund shall be credited to the fund.

17 7. The state board shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter
18 17A to administer this section, including rules related to
19 grant application materials, eligibility requirements, and award
20 criteria.

21 EXPLANATION

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

24 This bill establishes an agriculture education grant program
25 within the department of education (DE) to expand student
26 access to instruction related to agriculture, food, and natural
27 resources.

28 The bill defines "agriculture education program" as
29 instructional programs provided by school districts to students
30 enrolled in grades 9 through 12 in the agriculture, food,
31 and natural resources portion of the career and technical
32 education instruction and programs provided by school districts
33 under Code section 280.20 (career and technical agriculture
34 education), and "personal services costs" as the costs associated
35 with a school district employing a teacher for a maximum of

1 60 days of additional instruction outside of the teacher's
2 regularly scheduled teaching duties to provide instruction in an
3 agriculture education program.

4 The bill authorizes school districts to apply to DE for
5 grants under the program to offset the personal services costs
6 associated with employing teachers to provide instruction in an
7 agriculture education program. The department of education may
8 award a grant to a school district under the program totaling
9 100 percent of the teacher's personal services costs if the
10 school district's agriculture education program has existed for
11 less than 10 consecutive years and totaling 50 percent of the
12 teacher's personal services costs for all other programs. School
13 districts must use these moneys to supplement, not supplant,
14 existing public funding used by a school district for similar
15 purposes. The bill establishes an agriculture education grant
16 program fund in the state treasury.

17 The bill requires DE to develop and make available to school
18 districts a statewide system to track the time teachers devote to
19 instruction facilitated by grants provided under the program.

20 The bill requires the state board of education to adopt rules
21 to administer the program.