

House File 504 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 504

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McBURNEY, KURTH, BAETH,
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MADISON, JACOBY, BAGNIEWSKI,
SIECK, SIEGRIST, KONFRST,
BROWN-POWERS, GOSA, and
CROKEN

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to robotics, including by establishing a robotics
2 grant program within the science, technology, engineering,
3 and mathematics collaborative initiative and requiring the
4 university of northern Iowa to develop a public-private
5 partnership to support robotics competitions, and making
6 appropriations.

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

1 Section 1. Section 256.111, Code 2025, is amended by adding
2 the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 5A. a. The collaborative initiative shall
4 develop and administer a robotics grant program to provide
5 grants to school districts, accredited nonpublic schools, charter
6 schools, and innovation zone schools to support robotics programs
7 by offsetting costs associated with all of the following:

8 (1) The payment of stipends to members of school robotics
9 teams.

10 (2) Fees, kits, and supplies that are required to establish
11 or maintain a school robotics team or to participate in a
12 robotics competition.

13 (3) Event registration, materials, transportation costs,
14 travel costs, and other expenses related to attending a robotics
15 competition.

16 b. The collaborative initiative shall establish the
17 application processes, deadlines, eligibility requirements, and
18 award criteria associated with the robotics grant program.

19 c. Moneys awarded under this subsection shall be used to
20 supplement, not supplant, existing public funding used by a
21 school district for similar purposes.

22 Sec. 2. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION — ROBOTICS GRANT PROGRAM.

23 There is appropriated from the general fund of the state to the
24 department of education for the fiscal year beginning July 1,
25 2025, and ending June 30, 2026, the following amount, or so much
26 thereof as is necessary, to be used for the purposes designated:

27 For purposes of the robotics grant program established
28 pursuant to section 256.111, subsection 5A, if enacted:

29 \$ 400,000

30 Sec. 3. UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA — ROBOTICS COMPETITION.

31 There is appropriated from the general fund of the state to the
32 state board of regents for the fiscal year beginning July 1,
33 2025, and ending June 30, 2026, the following amount, or so much
34 thereof as is necessary, to be used for the purposes designated:

35 For the university of northern Iowa for purposes of developing

1 a public-private partnership with a person or persons who provide
2 matching funds to support the Iowa regional FIRST robotics
3 competition, including salaries, support, maintenance, and
4 miscellaneous purposes:

5 \$ 100,000

6 EXPLANATION

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

9 This bill relates to robotics, including by establishing
10 a robotics grant program within the science, technology,
11 engineering, and mathematics collaborative initiative and
12 requiring the university of northern Iowa to develop robotics
13 competitions.

14 The bill requires the science, technology, engineering,
15 and mathematics collaborative initiative within the innovation
16 division of the department of education to develop and administer
17 a robotics grant program to provide grants to school districts,
18 accredited nonpublic schools, charter schools, and innovation
19 zone schools to support robotics programs by offsetting certain
20 specified costs. The collaborative initiative is required
21 to establish the application processes, deadlines, eligibility
22 requirements, and award criteria associated with the robotics
23 grant program. The bill appropriates \$400,000 to the department
24 of education for purposes of the robotics grant program for FY
25 2025-2026.

26 The bill appropriates \$100,000 for FY 2025-2026 to the state
27 board of regents for the university of northern Iowa for purposes
28 of developing a public-private partnership with a person or
29 persons who provide matching funds to support the Iowa regional
30 FIRST robotics competition.