

House File 543 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 543
BY YOUNG

A BILL FOR

1 An Act providing for access to feminine hygiene products in
2 public school restrooms and making an appropriation.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. **279.87 Access to feminine hygiene**
2 **products — restrooms — appropriation.**

3 1. The board of directors of a school district shall ensure
4 that feminine hygiene products can be accessed by students
5 without cost in at least half of the restrooms in school
6 buildings in the district where students in grades six through
7 twelve are educated and that the supply of feminine hygiene
8 products is refilled regularly. For purposes of this section,
9 "feminine hygiene products" means sanitary napkins, tampons, or
10 other similar items used for feminine hygiene.

11 2. There is appropriated annually from the general fund of
12 the state to the department of education for the period beginning
13 July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2028, an amount necessary to
14 fund the full cost of compliance with this section by school
15 districts. The department shall establish processes for school
16 districts to submit the documented cost of compliance with this
17 section to the department on a quarter, trimester, or semester
18 basis and for the department to reimburse school districts for
19 such costs. The department may adopt rules pursuant to chapter
20 17A to administer this subsection. This subsection is repealed
21 July 1, 2028.

22 Sec. 2. STATE MANDATE FUNDING SPECIFIED. In accordance with
23 section 25B.2, subsection 3, the state cost of requiring
24 compliance with any state mandate included in this Act shall
25 be paid by a school district from funds appropriated by section
26 279.84, subsection 2, as enacted by this Act, and, for school
27 years beginning on or after July 1, 2028, from state school
28 foundation aid received by the school district under section
29 257.16. This specification of the payment of the state cost
30 shall be deemed to meet all of the state funding-related
31 requirements of section 25B.2, subsection 3, and no additional
32 state funding shall be necessary for the full implementation of
33 this Act by and enforcement of this Act against all affected
34 school districts.

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EXPLANATION

H.F. 543

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

3 This bill requires school boards to ensure that feminine
4 hygiene products can be accessed by students without cost in at
5 least half of the restrooms in school buildings in the district
6 where students in grades 6 through 12 are educated and that the
7 supply of feminine hygiene products is refilled regularly. The
8 bill defines "feminine hygiene products" as sanitary napkins,
9 tampons, or other similar items used for feminine hygiene.

10 The bill appropriates an amount necessary to fund the full
11 cost of compliance with the bill by school districts from the
12 general fund of the state to the department of education for the
13 period beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2028. The
14 bill directs the department to establish processes for school
15 districts to submit the documented cost of compliance to the
16 department and for the department to reimburse school districts
17 for such costs.

18 The bill may include a state mandate as defined in Code
19 section 25B.3. The bill requires that the state cost of any
20 state mandate included in the bill be paid by a school district
21 from funds appropriated by the bill, and, for school years
22 beginning on or after July 1, 2028, from state school foundation
23 aid received by the school district under Code section 257.16.
24 The specification is deemed to constitute state compliance with
25 any state mandate funding-related requirements of Code section
26 25B.2. The inclusion of this specification is intended to
27 reinstate the requirement of political subdivisions to comply
28 with any state mandates included in the bill.