

House File 730 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 730
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A BILL FOR

1 An Act requiring the director of the department of education to
2 establish a special education weighting work group.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. SPECIAL EDUCATION WEIGHTING WORK GROUP.

2 1. School funding in Iowa has not evolved as the demographics
3 of Iowa students have changed significantly, with little
4 attention paid to supporting the special education needs of
5 students. In order to meet the needs of such students and to
6 ensure access to special education across school districts, the
7 special education weighting work group shall review the special
8 education weighting plan under section 256B.9, which has not been
9 altered since 2004, and shall consider ways to increase special
10 education weightings.

11 2. The school finance review committee met on December 16,
12 2024, and received a memo from the school budget review committee
13 that discussed how a review of special education funding should
14 be conducted.

15 3. The director of the department of education shall
16 establish and appoint members to a work group to make
17 recommendations to modify the special education weighting plan.
18 The department of education shall work cooperatively to provide
19 staffing assistance for the work group. The work group shall be
20 composed of at least all of the following:

21 a. One member representing the Iowa association of school
22 boards.

23 b. One member representing the area education agencies.

24 c. One member representing the Iowa state education
25 association.

26 d. One member representing the school administrators of Iowa.

27 e. One member representing the urban education network of
28 Iowa.

29 f. One member representing the rural school advocates of
30 Iowa.

31 g. One member representing the professional educators of
32 Iowa.

33 h. One representative of the school district with the highest
34 basic enrollment under section 257.6 for the school budget year
35 beginning July 1, 2024.

1 i. One representative of a school district with a basic
2 enrollment under section 257.6 for the school budget year
3 beginning July 1, 2024, that is ranked in the highest one-third
4 among all school districts in the state.

5 j. One representative of a school district with a basic
6 enrollment under section 257.6 for the school budget year
7 beginning July 1, 2024, that is ranked in the middle one-third
8 among all school districts in the state.

9 k. One representative of a school district with a basic
10 enrollment under section 257.6 for the school budget year
11 beginning July 1, 2024, that is ranked in the lowest one-third
12 among all school districts in the state.

13 l. One representative of a school district located in whole
14 or in part less than one hundred miles from the eastern border of
15 this state.

16 m. One representative of a school district located in whole
17 or in part more than one hundred miles from both the eastern
18 border of this state and the western border of this state.

19 n. One representative of a school district located in whole
20 or in part less than one hundred miles from the western border of
21 this state.

22 o. Four ex officio, nonvoting legislative members consisting
23 of the following:

24 (1) Two state senators, one appointed by the majority leader
25 of the senate and one appointed by the minority leader of the
26 senate.

27 (2) Two state representatives, one appointed by the speaker
28 and one appointed by the minority leader of the house of
29 representatives.

30 4. By January 2, 2026, the work group shall submit
31 recommendations to the general assembly and the governor for
32 adjustments to the special education weightings.

33 EXPLANATION

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

H.F. 730

1 This bill directs the director of the department of education
2 to establish and appoint members to a special education weighting
3 plan work group to review the special education weighting plan
4 under Code section 256B.9, and shall consider ways to increase
5 special education weightings. The bill directs the department
6 of education to work cooperatively to provide staffing assistance
7 for the work group and establishes the minimum persons comprising
8 the work group. By January 2, 2026, the work group is required
9 to submit recommendations to the general assembly and the
10 governor for adjustments to special education weightings.

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