

House Study Bill 682 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION BILL BY CHAIRPERSON
WHEELER)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the revocation or denial of educator licenses
2 and certificates for publicly celebrating assassinations
3 or acts of politically motivated violence, and including
4 effective date and retroactive applicability provisions.
5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. Section 256.146, Code 2026, is amended by adding
2 the following new subsections:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 28. a. Adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A
4 that require the board to disqualify an applicant for a license
5 or certificate, or to revoke the license or certificate of a
6 person, for publicly celebrating any act of politically motivated
7 violence, including the unlawful killing of Charles J. Kirk, in a
8 manner that satisfies any of the following criteria:

9 (1) Demonstrates moral turpitude or unfitness to teach or
10 serve in a position of trust with children.

11 (2) Creates a substantial likelihood of material and
12 substantial disruption to the learning environment.

13 (3) Undermines public confidence in the integrity of the
14 education profession.

15 b. A single verified instance of celebrating an act of
16 politically motivated violence, including the unlawful killing of
17 Charles J. Kirk, whether on social media, in public statements,
18 or in any medium accessible to students or the public, shall
19 constitute sufficient grounds for such disqualification or
20 revocation.

21 c. The rules must require the board to initiate revocation
22 proceedings upon receipt of credible evidence that a person
23 holding a license or certificate publicly celebrated an act of
24 politically motivated violence, including the unlawful killing of
25 Charles J. Kirk.

26 d. As used in this subsection:

27 (1) "Celebrate" means to publicly express approval, joy,
28 satisfaction, or glee regarding an act of politically motivated
29 violence, including the unlawful killing of Charles J. Kirk.
30 "Celebrate" includes but is not limited to stating any of the
31 following on social media, in public statements, or in any medium
32 accessible to students or to the public:

33 (a) Good riddance.

34 (b) One less fascist.

35 (c) He deserved it.

1 (d) Any statement that is substantially similar to the
2 statements in subparagraph divisions (a) through (c) and that
3 endorses or rejoices in an act of politically motivated violence,
4 including the unlawful killing of Charles J. Kirk.

5 (2) "Credible evidence" includes but is not limited to all of
6 the following:

7 (a) Screenshots.

8 (b) Videos.

9 (c) Sworn complaints.

10 NEW SUBSECTION. 29. a. The board shall adopt rules pursuant
11 to chapter 17A that prohibit the board from revoking, suspending,
12 or denying a license, certificate, authorization, or statement of
13 recognition issued by the board solely on the basis of a person's
14 or applicant's expression of any of the following:

15 (1) Speech that is protected by the first amendment to the
16 Constitution of the United States, including political speech.

17 (2) A religious, political, or ideological viewpoint.

18 b. This subsection shall not be construed to prohibit
19 the board from disqualifying an applicant for a license or
20 certificate, or from revoking the license or certificate of a
21 person, pursuant to subsection 28.

22 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act, being deemed of immediate
23 importance, takes effect upon enactment.

24 Sec. 3. RETROACTIVE APPLICABILITY. The following applies
25 retroactively to September 10, 2025:

26 The portion of the section of this Act enacting section
27 256.146, subsection 28.

28 EXPLANATION

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

31 This bill relates to the revocation or denial of educator
32 licenses and certificates for publicly celebrating assassinations
33 or acts of politically motivated violence.

34 The bill requires the board of educational examiners (BOEE)
35 to disqualify an applicant for a license or certificate, and

1 to revoke the license or certificate of a person, for publicly
2 celebrating any act of politically motivated violence, including
3 the unlawful killing of Charles J. Kirk, in a manner that
4 demonstrates moral turpitude or unfitness to teach or serve
5 in a position of trust with children; creates a substantial
6 likelihood of material and substantial disruption to the learning
7 environment; or undermines public confidence in the integrity
8 of the education profession. A single verified instance of
9 celebrating an act of politically motivated violence, including
10 the unlawful killing of Charles J. Kirk, whether on social media,
11 in public statements, or in any medium accessible to students
12 or the public, shall constitute sufficient grounds for such
13 disqualification or revocation. The BOEE is required to initiate
14 revocation proceedings upon receipt of credible evidence that a
15 person holding a license or certificate publicly celebrated an
16 act of politically motivated violence, including the unlawful
17 killing of Charles J. Kirk. The bill defines "celebrate" and
18 "credible evidence". This provision applies retroactively to
19 September 10, 2025.

20 The bill prohibits the BOEE from revoking, suspending, or
21 denying a license, certificate, authorization, or statement of
22 recognition issued by the BOEE solely on the basis of a person's
23 or applicant's expression of speech that is protected by the
24 first amendment to the Constitution of the United States or
25 a religious, political, or ideological viewpoint. The bill
26 provides that this provision shall not be construed to prohibit
27 the BOEE from disqualifying an applicant for a license or
28 certificate, or from revoking the license or certificate of a
29 person, for publicly celebrating an act of politically motivated
30 violence, including the unlawful killing of Charles J. Kirk.

31 The bill is effective upon enactment.