

**House File 2512 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 2512  
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 682)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to education, including by modifying provisions  
2 related to revocation or denial of educator licenses and  
3 certificates for publicly celebrating assassinations or  
4 acts of politically motivated violence, student protests,  
5 and including effective date and retroactive applicability  
6 provisions.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

27 *d.* As used in this subsection:

28 (1) "*Celebrate*" means to publicly express approval, joy,  
29 satisfaction, or glee regarding an act of politically motivated  
30 violence, including the unlawful killing of Charles J. Kirk.

31 "*Celebrate*" includes but is not limited to stating any of the  
32 following on social media, in public statements, or in any  
33 medium accessible to students or to the public:

34 (a) Good riddance.

35 (b) One less fascist.

1 (c) He deserved it.

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

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

8 (a) Screenshots.

9 (b) Videos.

10 (c) Sworn complaints.

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

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

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

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

24 NEW SUBSECTION. 30. *a.* The board shall adopt rules  
25 pursuant to chapter 17A that require the board to revoke the  
26 license of a teacher or administrator for encouraging or  
27 leading a student protest.

28 *b.* For purposes of this subsection, "*student protest*" means  
29 a coordinated event among three or more students enrolled in  
30 a school district in which the students leave the classroom  
31 during the school day to protest or draw attention to any  
32 school policy, local policy, state policy, federal policy, or  
33 any social issue.

34 **Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 279.89 Student protests.**

35 1. The board of directors of a school district shall

1 consider a student's participation in a student protest as an  
2 unexcused absence for purposes of chapter 299.

3 2. The board of directors of a school district shall extend  
4 the school calendar established pursuant to section 279.10  
5 by one day for each day that a student protest occurs in any  
6 attendance center in the school district.

7 3. For purposes of this section, "*student protest*" means  
8 a coordinated event among three or more students enrolled in  
9 a school district in which the students leave the classroom  
10 during the school day to protest or draw attention to any  
11 school policy, local policy, state policy, federal policy, or  
12 any social issue.

13 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act, being deemed of immediate  
14 importance, takes effect upon enactment.

15 Sec. 4. RETROACTIVE APPLICABILITY. The following applies  
16 retroactively to September 10, 2025:

17 The portion of the section of this Act enacting section  
18 256.146, subsection 28.

19 EXPLANATION

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

22 This bill relates to education, including by modifying  
23 provisions related to revocation or denial of educator licenses  
24 and certificates for publicly celebrating assassinations or  
25 acts of politically motivated violence and student protests.

26 The bill requires the board of educational examiners (BOEE)  
27 to disqualify an applicant for a license or certificate,  
28 and to revoke the license or certificate of a person, for  
29 publicly celebrating any act of politically motivated violence,  
30 including the unlawful killing of Charles J. Kirk, in a  
31 manner that demonstrates moral turpitude or unfitness to teach  
32 or serve in a position of trust with children; creates a  
33 substantial likelihood of material and substantial disruption  
34 to the learning environment; or undermines public confidence in  
35 the integrity of the education profession. A single verified

1 instance of celebrating an act of politically motivated  
2 violence, including the unlawful killing of Charles J. Kirk,  
3 whether on social media, in public statements, or in any  
4 medium accessible to students or the public, shall constitute  
5 sufficient grounds for such disqualification or revocation.  
6 The BOEE is required to initiate revocation proceedings upon  
7 receipt of credible evidence that a person holding a license or  
8 certificate publicly celebrated an act of politically motivated  
9 violence, including the unlawful killing of Charles J. Kirk.  
10 This provision applies retroactively to September 10, 2025.

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

23 The bill requires the BOEE to revoke the license of a teacher  
24 or administrator for encouraging or leading a student protest.

25 The bill requires school districts to consider a student's  
26 participation in a student protest as an unexcused absence for  
27 purposes of Code chapter 299 (compulsory education). The bill  
28 also requires the board of directors of a school district to  
29 extend the school calendar for each day that a student protest  
30 occurs in any attendance center in the school district.

31 The bill defines "celebrate", "credible evidence", and  
32 "student protest", and the bill is effective upon enactment.