

MAR 10 2005  
EDUCATION

HOUSE FILE 693  
BY FORD

Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act requiring secondary school students to take a college  
2 entrance examination prior to graduating from high school and  
3 making an appropriation.

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

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HF 693

1 Section 1. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION -- POSTSECONDARY  
2 READINESS PILOT PROGRAM. There is appropriated from the  
3 general fund of the state to the department of education for  
4 the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2005, and ending June 30,  
5 2006, the following amount, or so much thereof as is  
6 necessary, to be used for the purposes of reimbursing school  
7 districts for the costs of providing college examinations  
8 prior to a student's graduation from high school pursuant to  
9 section 256.11, subsection 16:

10 ..... \$ 500,000

11 Sec. 2. Section 256.11, Code 2005, is amended by adding  
12 the following new subsection:

13 NEW SUBSECTION. 16. a. The board of directors of each  
14 school district and the authorities in charge of each  
15 accredited nonpublic school shall adopt a policy requiring  
16 each student to take the college entrance examination  
17 published by the American college testing program, inc., prior  
18 to graduating from high school.

19 b. If a student taking the college entrance examination  
20 pursuant to this subsection is eligible for free or reduced  
21 price meals under the federal National School Lunch Act and  
22 the federal Child Nutrition Act of 1966, 42 U.S.C. § 1751-  
23 1785, the fee for the examination shall be paid by the school  
24 district, and the school district shall be reimbursed by the  
25 department from funds appropriated to the department for the  
26 payment of claims for examination costs submitted by the  
27 school district. To receive a reimbursement for the fees paid  
28 pursuant to this paragraph, a school district shall certify to  
29 the department the number of students enrolled in the school  
30 district or accredited nonpublic school located within the  
31 school district who took the examinations who are eligible for  
32 free or reduced price meals. The cost of the examinations  
33 paid by the school district shall not be included in the  
34 computation of district cost under chapter 257, but shall be  
35 shown in the budget as an expense from miscellaneous income.

1 Any reimbursements for the costs of the examinations received  
2 by a local school district shall not affect district cost  
3 limitations of chapter 257. The reimbursements provided in  
4 this section are miscellaneous income as defined in section  
5 257.2. Claims shall be accompanied by an affidavit of an  
6 officer of the public school district affirming the accuracy  
7 of the claim. If the funds appropriated for the reimbursement  
8 of college entrance examination costs are insufficient to  
9 reimburse school districts as provided in this paragraph, the  
10 department shall prorate the amount distributed to school  
11 districts based upon the amount appropriated. A school  
12 district shall not be reimbursed for the costs of  
13 administering the examination to the same student more than  
14 once.

15 EXPLANATION

16 This bill requires the board of directors of each school  
17 district and the authorities in charge of each accredited  
18 nonpublic school to adopt a policy requiring each student to  
19 take the college entrance examination published by the  
20 American college testing program, inc., prior to graduating  
21 from high school. School districts must pay the costs of the  
22 examinations for students who are eligible for free or reduced  
23 price meals, but the school districts shall be reimbursed by  
24 the department of education from moneys appropriated to the  
25 department to pay for those costs. For FY 2005-2006, the bill  
26 appropriates \$500,000 to the department to reimburse school  
27 districts that certify to the department the number of public  
28 and nonpublic students taking the examinations who are  
29 eligible for free or reduced price meals. If the moneys  
30 appropriated are insufficient to pay for all of the claims  
31 submitted to the department, the department is directed to  
32 prorate the amount distributed to school districts based upon  
33 the amount appropriated. A school district shall be  
34 reimbursed for the payment of examination fees for a specific  
35 student only once.