

FILED JAN 18 2006

EDUCATION

SENATE FILE 2042  
BY TINSMAN

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

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act requiring the department of education and the area  
2 education agencies to facilitate meetings to discuss the  
3 implementation of graduation competency examinations.  
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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EDUCATION

SC 2042

1 Section 1. UNIFORM STRUCTURED CONVERSATION PROCESS --  
2 GRADUATION COMPETENCY EXAMINATIONS.

3 1. The department of education and the area education  
4 agencies shall facilitate a series of meetings with  
5 representatives from the department, area education agency  
6 personnel, school district leaders, parents, and students to  
7 discuss the implementation of graduation competency  
8 examinations. The issues for discussion shall include  
9 statewide versus local graduation competency examinations,  
10 remediation, examination development, statewide standards, and  
11 graduation competencies and diplomas for students who have  
12 been provided an individualized education program. The  
13 initial meeting shall be held not later than October 1, 2006.

14 2. At the conclusion of the series of meetings, each area  
15 education agency shall collect the recommendations made at the  
16 meetings held pursuant to subsection 1 and shall submit the  
17 recommendations to the department of education and the general  
18 assembly by November 15, 2006. The department of education  
19 shall review the recommendations submitted by the area  
20 education agencies and shall submit its findings and  
21 recommendations in a report to the general assembly by January  
22 15, 2007. The report submitted by the department to the  
23 general assembly shall also identify any changes in the Iowa  
24 Code that implementation of its recommendations would  
25 necessitate, and include a time line for implementation of the  
26 recommendations.

27 3. For purposes of this section, "school district leaders"  
28 includes superintendents, administrators, central office  
29 staff, educators, and school board members, though a school  
30 district may designate one school district leader to represent  
31 the school district regularly at the meetings held pursuant to  
32 subsection 1.

33 EXPLANATION

34 This bill directs the department of education and the  
35 boards of directors of the area education agencies to

1 facilitate a series of meetings, beginning not later than  
2 October 1, 2006, with representatives from the department,  
3 area education agency personnel and school district leaders,  
4 parents, and students to discuss the implementation of  
5 graduation competency examinations. At the conclusion of the  
6 meetings, each AEA must collect the recommendations made and  
7 submit them to the department and the general assembly.

8 The department shall review the AEA's recommendations and  
9 submit its findings and recommendations in a report to the  
10 general assembly by January 15, 2007. The department's report  
11 must identify any changes in the Code that implementation of  
12 the department's recommendations would necessitate and include  
13 a time line for implementation of the recommendations.

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