

## A BILL

FOR AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR A UNIFORMITY OF TEXT-BOOKS IN THE COMMON  
SCHOOLS OF THE STATE.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa,* The superintendent  
of public instruction and two other persons to be appointed by the governor of the state, upon  
the taking effect of this act, are hereby constituted a commission, and are authorized and  
instructed to immediately select suitable text-books for use in the common schools of the  
state in the following branches of study, to-wit:

Spelling,

Reading,

Arithmetic,

English grammar,

Geography,

History of the United States, and

Physiology.

Said books to be prepared of good material, well printed, well bound and well made in  
every respect. And said commission are further authorized and directed to enter into  
contract for the term of five years with such persons as will furnish said books in sufficient  
quantities for use in the common schools of the state at the lowest price, said price not to  
exceed

said books to be delivered at Des Moines in such quantities and at such times as the superin-  
tendent of public instruction may from time to time designate. The persons so contracting  
to furnish said books are hereby required to execute a bond to the state of Iowa, with suffi-  
cient sureties, in the penal sum of fifty thousand dollars, for the execution on their part of  
the terms of said contract, and in case of the failure, at any time, of said persons so contract-  
ing to fulfill the terms of said contract on their part, then the entire penal sum to at once  
become due, and it is hereby made the duty of the attorney-general to commence suit in the  
name of the state to enforce the liability of the principal and sureties on said bond.

SEC. 2. The superintendent of public instruction shall, on or before the 1st day of May in each  
 2 year, and at such other times as may be necessary, estimate and make requisition upon the  
 3 contractor, taking as a basis for said estimate and requisition the requisition from the county  
 4 superintendents of the several counties of the state hereinafter provided for, the whole num-  
 5 ber of text-books required for use in the common schools of the state during the year, and  
 6 the said contractor shall, upon the receipt of said requisition, without delay, cause the said  
 7 books to be delivered to the said superintendent. The superintendent of public instruction,  
 8 upon receipt from the contractor of any books upon a requisition made by him, and in accord-  
 9 ance with the terms of the contract, said books being received in good condition, shall issue to  
 10 said contractor a certificate setting forth the number, kind and value of the books delivered,  
 11 and the said certificate being filed in the state auditor's office, the state auditor shall issue  
 12 his warrant upon the state treasurer for the amount due as shown by said certificate, and  
 13 said warrant shall be paid from the school text-book fund hereinafter provided for.

SEC. 3. The superintendent of public instruction shall, immediately upon receiving the  
 2 books from the contractor as provided for in section two of this act, transmit to each county  
 3 superintendent in the state, by express, the number and kind of books required for use in the  
 4 common schools of each county respectively, and shall, at the same time, transmit by mail  
 5 to each county superintendent a statement showing the number and kinds of books sent, the  
 6 value of each book, and the whole amount due the state for said books.

SEC. 4. For the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this act, there is hereby appro-  
 2 priated and set apart the sum of one hundred thousand dollars, to be used as a revolving  
 3 fund, to be called the school text-book fund. This fund shall, at all times, be subject to the  
 4 warrants of the state auditor, issued to the contractor in payment for school books delivered  
 5 on the order of the superintendent of public instruction, and all payments into the state  
 6 treasury by the county treasurers of the state on account of school text-books, shall be cred-  
 7 ited by the state treasurer to the school text-book fund herein provided for.

SEC. 5. The county superintendent of each county in the state shall, on or before the  
 2 fourth Monday in April in each year, and at such other times as may be necessary, make a  
 3 requisition upon the superintendent of public instruction, taking as a basis for said requisi-  
 4 tion the estimates of the various boards of directors on file in his office, hereinafter provided  
 5 for, for the whole number and kinds of school text-books required for use in each county re-  
 6 spectively, and shall, at the time of securing the statement from the superintendent of public  
 7 instruction, hereinbefore provided for, transmit to the county treasurers of their counties re-  
 8 spectively, a statement showing the number, kind and value of each book called for by each

9 school district in the county, and the total amount due the state by each district for said  
10 books; and the county treasurer shall, immediately upon receiving said statement, deduct  
11 from the contingent fund of each district the value of the books called for by each district  
12 respectively, as shown by the statement filed with him, and pay the same to the order of the  
13 state treasurer.

SEC. 6. Within one year after the said books are delivered to the superintendent of pub-  
2 lic instruction, there shall be no other text-books in the said branches of study used in any  
3 of the common schools of the state. The board of directors of each school district in the  
4 state shall, at or before their April meeting in each year, make an estimate of the number  
5 and kind of books required for use in the district during the year, and shall, at their April  
6 meeting, make provision for their payment out of the contingent fund, and the secretary of  
7 the district shall immediately report to the county superintendent the number and kind of  
8 books estimated by the board. Said books shall be procured from the county superintendent  
9 by the treasurer of the district, and shall be kept at his office and sold to the scholars of the  
10 district at their actual cost price, including cost of transportation: and payment for the same  
11 shall be made into the contingent fund.