

February 22, 1951.
Appropriations.

House File 502
By BUTLER, PEDRICK, TIERNEY.

Passed House, Date
Vote: Ayes..... Nays.....
Passed Senate, Date.....
Vote: Ayes..... Nays.....
Approved

A BILL FOR

An Act providing for state general building aid to assist school districts in financing approved programs of school building construction and/or rehabilitation, providing for the administration of such aid by the state department of public instruction, and making the appropriation for such aid.

Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

1 Section 1. For the purpose of assisting school districts
2 to construct and equip needed school buildings the several school
3 districts in the state which are carrying out building or recon-
4 struction programs will be entitled to and receive financial aid
5 from the state as hereinafter provided in this chapter. The aid
6 provided for in this chapter shall be known as general aid for
7 school building. General aid for school building is that aid
8 which is available to districts which qualify under the provisions
9 of this chapter.

1 Sec. 2. General building aid will be paid by the state to
2 those districts which qualify, as hereinafter provided.

1 Sec. 3. General building aid will be paid under the fol-
2 lowing conditions and requirements:

3 1. Prior to letting the contract for the construction of

4 new buildings and/or the rehabilitation of existing buildings,
5 the district must submit a request for state general building
6 aid upon a form to be provided by the state department of public
7 instruction together with the plans for the contemplated con-
8 struction and/or rehabilitation to the county board of education
9 together with all evidence of the need for the said construction
10 and/or rehabilitation.

11 2. Within ten (10) days of the receipt of the request by a
12 district for general building aid the chairman of the county
13 board of education shall appoint a committee of two board members.
14 The committee shall investigate the claim of the district making
15 the request and report its findings and recommendations to the
16 county board. Within thirty (30) days of the time of the appoint-
17 ment of the said committee, a meeting of the county board shall
18 be held at which time the request for aid shall be considered.

19 3. If, in the discretion of the county board of education,
20 the planned construction and/or rehabilitation is genuinely
21 needed by the district making application in order that the
22 district be enabled to carry out a satisfactory program of edu-
23 cation, and if the afore mentioned construction and/or rehabili-
24 tation will, in the discretion of the board become an efficient
25 part of a plan for school district organization, the county board
26 may approve the plans.

27 4. Following the meeting of the county board of education,
28 at which a request for state general building aid was considered,
29 the county superintendent shall notify the district of the action

30 taken by the county board.

31 5. When the request of a school district for state general
32 building aid has been approved by the county board of education,
33 the request, together with the plans for the contemplated con-
34 struction and/or rehabilitation and all evidences of the need
35 for such construction and/or rehabilitation by the district shall
36 be forwarded within thirty (30) days to the department of public
37 instruction by the county board of education. In addition to the
38 foregoing request for aid the county board of education shall file
39 with the department of public instruction a duly approved plan
40 for the reorganization of the school districts of the county as
41 provided for in Chapter 275, Code 1950.

42 6. If, in the discretion of the department of public in-
43 struction, the plans for the construction and/or rehabilitation
44 of school buildings the district requesting state general build-
45 ing aid meet with the needs of the district and will become ef-
46 fective units in a plan of school district organization which is
47 in keeping with the best interest of the education program of the
48 state as a whole, the superintendent of public instruction shall
49 authorize the payment of state general building aid to the said
50 district. Within sixty (60) days of the time of receipt by the
51 department of a request for state general building aid by a dis-
52 trict, the superintendent of public instruction shall notify the
53 said district of the decision of the department.

54 7. To receive aid under the provisions of this Act in any
55 given fiscal year the district must submit its request not later

56 than February 15 of the fiscal year in which the aid is to be
57 received. Requests submitted later than February 15 to the county
58 board of education shall, if approved, be paid from the general
59 building aid appropriation for the next succeeding fiscal year.

60 8. In the event that a district's request for state gen-
61 eral building aid is denied by the county board of education,
62 the said district may appeal its request to the department of
63 public instruction providing that such appeal is filed with the
64 department of public instruction within ten (10) days of the
65 date of the denial by the county board.

66 9. In the event of any district's appealing a request for
67 state general building aid to the department of public instruc-
68 tion, the superintendent of public instruction shall, within
69 thirty (30) days of the receipt of the appeal, conduct a hear-
70 ing on the said appeal. The decision of the superintendent of
71 public instruction with respect to the appeal will be final.

1 Sec. 4. General building aid shall be on the basis of
2 the actual cost of approved new construction and/or rehabili-
3 tation and shall amount to a sum equal to one-fifth of the
4 total contracted cost of approved new construction and/or re-
5 habilitation.

1 Sec. 5. After the contract for the approved new construc-
2 tion and/or rehabilitation has been drawn and duly ratified, the
3 school district shall deposit one copy with the department of
4 public instruction. The department of public instruction shall
5 then authorize the state comptroller to pay the amount of the

6 claim to the afore mentioned district.

1 Sec. 6. The receiving district may use the state general
2 building aid fund toward the payment of the construction costs of
3 new buildings and/or rehabilitation, the cost of preparing the
4 plans for the afore mentioned building, architects' fees, and
5 the cost of equipment for the new or remodeled buildings.

1 Sec. 7. For the purpose of carrying out the provisions
2 of this chapter there shall be appropriated from the general
3 fund of the state a sum not to exceed \$5,000,000 for each year
4 of the biennium 1951-52, 1952-53. In the event that the claims
5 made during the first year of the afore mentioned biennium do
6 not require the expenditure of the entire appropriation for
7 that year the remainder shall be carried over and added to the
8 appropriation for the year 1952-53. In the event that the
9 amount appropriated for the payment of general building aid
10 is insufficient to pay in full the amounts claimed by each
11 school district, then the amount of each payment shall be re-
12 duced by the state comptroller in the ratio that the total
13 amount appropriated and available bears to the total amount of
14 the claims certified for payment.

EXPLANATION OF H. F. 502

This bill provides \$5,000,000 to be distributed to districts on a 20 per cent matching basis to assist districts in carrying out approved building programs. The bill provides for the approval of planned building by the county board of education and the state department of public instruction. This will insure that state supported buildings will be constructed only in districts which could make the maximum use of such buildings in the long-time educational program. State aid for school building is necessary for two reasons: Firstly, the rising cost of building is making it increasingly difficult for districts to carry out their building and secondly, the rising school population is further increasing the need.