

February 21, 1963.  
Schools, Libraries, State  
Educational Institutions.  
*Pass 2/25*

**House File 313**

By DEN HERDER, MENSING, HAKES,  
NELSON, SMITH of O'Brien, PRINE,  
BUSCH, WALTER, McELROY, SCHERLE,  
HALLING, GRASSLEY, WINKELMAN,  
EDGINGTON and BALLOUN.

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

**A BILL FOR**

An Act relating to election of the state board of public instruction.

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

1 Section 1. Section two hundred fifty-seven point one  
2 (257.1), Code 1962, is hereby amended by striking from line  
3 five (5) the word "nine" and inserting in lieu thereof the  
4 word "seven".

1 Sec. 2. Section two hundred fifty-seven point two (257.2),  
2 Code 1962, is hereby amended by inserting in line three (3)  
3 of said section after the word "state" the words "and of the  
4 congressional district from which they are elected".

1 Sec. 3. Section two hundred fifty-seven point three (257.3),  
2 Code 1962, is hereby repealed and the following enacted in  
3 lieu thereof:

4 "The state is hereby divided into seven (7) state board of  
5 public instruction districts, hereinafter called public  
6 instruction districts, the boundaries of which shall be  
7 conterminous with the seven (7) congressional districts as  
8 they existed on January 1, 1963. The public instruction  
9 districts shall be numbered from one (1) through seven (7)  
10 and their numbers shall be the same as the numbers of the

11 seven (7) congressional districts as they existed on January 1,  
12 1963. There shall be one (1) member of the state board elected  
13 from each such district, except that all state board members  
14 elected or appointed prior to January 1, 1963, shall serve  
15 until the term for which they were elected or appointed has  
16 expired and their successors have been elected and qualified.  
17 State board members elected after January 1, 1963, shall be  
18 elected for a term of six (6) years beginning on the second  
19 secular day in January following their election.

20 "The election of state board members shall take place at  
21 the general election on ballots which shall not reflect a  
22 nominee's political affiliation. Nominations shall be made by  
23 petition in accordance with Chapter forty-five (45), Code 1962.  
24 The petition form shall be furnished by the secretary of state,  
25 signed by a number of qualified electors of the public in-  
26 struction district equal to or greater than one (1) percent  
27 of the vote cast for governor by both political parties in  
28 said public instruction district in the last previous general  
29 election, which nomination petition shall be filed with the  
30 secretary of state at least seventy (70) days prior to the  
31 date of the general election to be held in November.

32 "In the event that no person files a nomination petition in  
33 a public instruction district as required by this section, a  
34 convention, at which the president of the school board or his  
35 duly authorized representative from each school district within  
36 said public instruction district shall be an authorized delegate,  
37 shall be convened and make nominations of not less than two (2)  
38 nor more than four (4) candidates. Nominations shall be certi-

39 fied to the secretary of state in accordance with Chapter forty-  
40 four (44), Code 1962. It shall be the responsibility of the  
41 state board member in each public instruction district to  
42 determine the time and place of such convention.

43 "A plurality shall be sufficient to elect state board members,  
44 it being the intent that there be no primary election.

45 "If any provisions of this section shall be in conflict with  
46 any of the laws of this state, then the provisions of this  
47 section shall prevail.

48 "At the general election in 1964 one (1) member of the state  
49 board from each of the following numbered public instruction  
50 districts shall be elected: districts four (4) and six (6).

51 At the general election in 1966 one (1) member of the state  
52 board from each of the following numbered public instruction  
53 districts shall be elected: districts five (5) and seven (7).

54 At the general election in 1968 one (1) member of the state  
55 board from each of the following numbered public instruction  
56 districts shall be elected: districts one (1), two (2) and  
57 three (3). Thereafter, successors shall be elected at the  
58 general election immediately preceding completion of each  
59 six (6) year term. No member of the state board shall  
60 succeed himself in office for more than one (1) term.

61 "At the first meeting of the state board, after January 1  
62 each odd-numbered year, the board shall elect a president and  
63 vice-president who shall serve for two (2) years."

1 Sec. 4. Section two hundred fifty-seven point four (257.4),  
2 Code 1962, is hereby repealed and the following enacted in  
3 lieu thereof:

- 4 "The members of the state board shall qualify by taking the
- 5 regular oath of office as prescribed by law for state officers.
- 6 Vacancies occurring on the state board shall be filled by the
- 7 remainder of the board by appointment for the unexpired term.
- 1 Sec. 5. Section two hundred fifty-seven point five (257.5),
- 2 Code 1962, is hereby repealed.

**EXPLANATION OF HOUSE FILE 313**

This bill would reduce the number of members on the state board of public instruction from nine to seven and have them elected by congressional districts in the general election by lay people instead of through the present district convention system.