

February 28, 1963.
Passed on File. *Schools, etc 3/11*

House File 439
By STANLEY.

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

A BILL FOR

An Act relating to the admission of children to school.

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

1 Section 1. Section two hundred eighty-two point three
2 (282.3), Code 1962, is hereby amended by striking the
3 period in line twenty-one (21) of subsection six (6)
4 and inserting the following in lieu thereof:
5 “; except that a child under five (5) years of age who
6 has demonstrated the possession of sufficient ability to
7 profit by school work for the year immediately preceding
8 the first grade on the basis of tests or other means of
9 evaluation recommended or approved by the department of
10 public instruction, may be admitted to school work for
11 the year immediately preceding the first grade at any
12 time before December 31.”

1 Sec. 2. Section two hundred eighty-two point three
2 (282.3), Code 1962, is hereby amended by inserting the
3 following new subsection at the end thereof:
4 “The department of public instruction shall recommend
5 or approve one or more tests or other means of evaluation
6 for the purposes stated in this section.”

EXPLANATION OF HOUSE FILE 439

In 1961 the General Assembly adopted a uniform school entrance age law, but permitted a child under six years of age to be admitted to first grade on the basis of tests showing he is ready for first-grade work.

The 1961 law implies that a child under five years of age may be admitted to kindergarten on the basis of tests (section 282.3, subsection 6, fourth paragraph), but does

not clearly say so. Some school boards have ruled that a child under five years of age may not be admitted to kindergarten under any conditions.

This leads to a strange situation. An advanced child may be admitted to first grade, but cannot be admitted to kindergarten. If he is admitted to first grade ahead of his age group, he must skip kindergarten. In most cases it would be better for the advanced child to have a year of kindergarten before beginning first grade.

This bill allows a local school board to admit a child to kindergarten ahead of his age group, in the same manner as the law already provides for first grade.

This bill also requires the state department of public instruction to recommend or approve tests of readiness for kindergarten or first grade.