

FEB 27 2001
EDUCATION

HOUSE FILE 420
BY MASCHER

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

A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing an early elementary foreign language pilot
2 program, and making an appropriation.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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HF 420

1 Section 1. EARLY ELEMENTARY FOREIGN LANGUAGE PILOT
2 PROGRAM. There is appropriated from the general fund of the
3 state to the department of education for the fiscal year
4 beginning July 1, 2001, and ending June 30, 2002, the
5 following amount, or so much thereof as is necessary, to be
6 used for the purpose designated:

7 For the establishment of an early elementary foreign
8 language pilot program:

9 \$ 100,000

10 Funds appropriated in this section shall be awarded by the
11 department as grant moneys to school districts to increase the
12 number of districts which include a foreign language component
13 in their elementary curriculum. School districts desiring to
14 receive grant moneys under the program shall submit plans and
15 a proposed budget to the department for approval. The
16 department shall establish criteria for awarding grants by
17 rule, but shall to the extent possible distribute awards
18 evenly among school districts of various sizes and geographic
19 locations throughout the state. To be eligible to receive
20 grant moneys, a school district shall be required to
21 demonstrate in their application the ability to provide
22 matching funds on a dollar-for-dollar basis. The department
23 shall be authorized to apply for and allocate private or
24 federal funds for the pilot program in addition to the
25 appropriated amounts. The department shall submit a report to
26 the members of the general assembly by January 15, 2003,
27 regarding the success of the program in increasing the
28 offering of elementary curriculum foreign language courses.

29 EXPLANATION

30 This bill provides for an appropriation from the general
31 fund of the state to the department of education for the
32 fiscal year beginning July 1, 2001, and ending June 30, 2002,
33 of \$100,000 for the establishment of an early elementary
34 foreign language pilot program. The bill provides that the
35 appropriated funds shall be awarded as grant moneys to

1 increase the number of school districts which include a
2 foreign language component in their elementary curriculum.
3 The bill provides that school districts desiring to receive
4 grant moneys under the program shall submit plans and a
5 proposed budget to the department for approval. The bill
6 provides that the department shall establish criteria for
7 awarding grants by rule, but shall to the extent possible
8 distribute awards evenly among school districts of various
9 sizes and geographic locations throughout the state. The bill
10 provides that a school district shall be required to
11 demonstrate the ability to provide matching funds on a dollar-
12 for-dollar basis to receive a grant award. The bill
13 additionally provides that the department shall be authorized
14 to apply for and allocate private or federal funds for the
15 pilot program in addition to the appropriated amounts. The
16 bill provides that the department shall submit a report to the
17 members of the general assembly by January 15, 2003, regarding
18 the success of the program in increasing the offering of
19 elementary curriculum foreign language courses.

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