

FEB 20 2002
Place On Calendar

HOUSE FILE 2454
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 2350)

Passed House ^(P.630) Date 3/6/02 Passed Senate, Date ^(P.733) 3/20/02
Vote: Ayes 92 Nays 0 Vote: Ayes 47 Nays 0
Approved April 5, 2002
Re-Passed 3.26.02
vote 95-0

A BILL FOR

1 An Act encouraging school districts to establish character
2 education programs, and directing the department of education
3 to partner with local educational institutions and agencies
4 and nonprofit organizations in the design and implementation
5 of character education programs.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:
7 HOUSE FILE 2454

8 S-5187

9 1 Amend House File 2454, as passed by the House, as
10 2 follows:

11 3 1. Page 1, line 22, by inserting after the word
12 4 "giving," the following: "honesty, self-discipline,
13 5 respect for and obedience to the law, citizenship,
14 6 courage, initiative, commitment, perseverance,
15 7 kindness, compassion, service, loyalty, patience, the
16 8 dignity and necessity of hard work,".

17 9 2. Page 2, by striking lines 5 and 6 and
18 10 inserting the following:

19 11 "3. The department of education shall report to
20 12 the state board and to the general assembly regarding
21 13 the success of any".

22 14 3. Page 2, line 8, by striking the word "program"
23 15 and inserting the following: "program character
16 education initiative".

By NANCY BOETTGER
STEVE KING
THOMAS FIEGEN

Adapted 3/20/02
P.732

S-5187 FILED MARCH 18, 2002

HF 2454

1 Section 1. Section 256.18, Code 2001, is amended to read
2 as follows:

3 256.18 CHARACTER EDUCATION POLICY ---PILOT-PROGRAM.

4 1. It is the policy of the general assembly that Iowa's
5 schools be the best and safest possible. To that end, each
6 school is encouraged to instill the highest character and
7 academic excellence in each student, in close cooperation with
8 the student's parents, and with input from the community and
9 educators.

10 Schools should make every effort, formally and informally,
11 to stress character qualities that will maintain a safe and
12 orderly learning environment, and that will ultimately equip
13 students to be model citizens. These qualities may include
14 ~~but-are-not-limited-to-honesty, responsibility, respect and~~
15 ~~care-for-the-person-and-property-of-others, self-discipline,~~
16 ~~understanding-of, respect-for, and obedience-to-law-and~~
17 ~~citizenship, courage, initiative, commitment, and~~
18 ~~perseverance, kindness, compassion, service, and loyalty,~~
19 ~~fairness, moderation, and patience, and the dignity and~~
20 ~~necessity-of-hard-work~~ caring, civic virtue and citizenship,
21 justice and fairness, respect, responsibility,
22 trustworthiness, giving, and any other qualities deemed
23 appropriate by a school.

24 2. The department of education shall assist schools in
25 accessing financial and curricular resources to implement
26 programs stressing these character qualities. Schools are
27 encouraged to use their existing resources to implement
28 programs stressing these qualities. Whenever possible, the
29 department shall develop partnerships with schools, nonprofit
30 organizations, or an institution of higher education, or with
31 a consortium of two or more of those entities, to design and
32 implement character education programs that may be integrated
33 into classroom instruction and may be carried out with other
34 educational reforms.

35 ~~2.--The-department-of-education-shall-establish-a-character~~

1 education-pilot-program-to-evaluate-methods-for-incorporating
2 positive-character-qualities-into-all-levels-of-the-existing
3 educational-program. Schools involved-in-the-pilot-program
4 may use phase III funds in the establishment of the program.

5 3.--The-department-of-education-shall-report-to-the-state
6 board-and-to-the-general-assembly-regarding-the-success-of-any
7 pilot-programs-prior-to-the-completion-of-the-third-year-of-a
8 program.

9 EXPLANATION

10 This bill strikes language establishing a character
11 education pilot program, but maintains much of the language
12 encouraging schools to make every effort to stress character
13 education qualities. The bill provides that these qualities
14 may include caring, civic virtue and citizenship, justice and
15 fairness, respect, responsibility, trustworthiness, giving,
16 and any other qualities deemed appropriate by a school.

17 Currently, the Code requires the department of education to
18 assist schools in accessing financial and curricular resources
19 to implement character education programs. The bill adds to
20 this requirement by directing the department to, whenever
21 possible, develop partnerships with schools, nonprofit
22 organizations, or an institution of higher education, or with
23 a consortium of two or more of those entities, to design and
24 implement character education programs that may be integrated
25 into classroom instruction and may be carried out with other
26 educational reforms.

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SENATE AMENDMENT TO HOUSE FILE 2454

H-8379

- 1 Amend House File 2454, as passed by the House, as
2 follows:
3 1. Page 1, line 22, by inserting after the word
4 "giving," the following: "honesty, self-discipline,
5 respect for and obedience to the law, citizenship,
6 courage, initiative, commitment, perseverance,
7 kindness, compassion, service, loyalty, patience, the
8 dignity and necessity of hard work,".
9 2. Page 2, by striking lines 5 and 6 and
10 inserting the following:
11 "3. The department of education shall report to
12 the state board and to the general assembly regarding
13 the success of any".
14 3. Page 2, line 8, by striking the word "~~program~~"
15 and inserting the following: "program character
16 education initiative".

RECEIVED FROM THE SENATE

H-8379 FILED MARCH 20, 2002

House Concurred 3/26/02 (P.997)

Legislative Fiscal Bureau

Fiscal Note

HF 2454 - Character Education Initiative (LSB 6213 HV)

Analyst: Robin Madison (Phone: (515) 281-5270) (robin.madison@legis.state.ia.us)

Fiscal Note Version - New

Requested by Representative Carmine Boal

Description

House File 2454 strikes language establishing a character education pilot program but maintains language encouraging schools to emphasize character education and lists qualities of character that should be taught. The Bill maintains language requiring the Department of Education to assist schools in obtaining financial and curricular resources to implement character education programs. The Bill also directs the Department to, whenever possible, develop partnerships and consortiums with schools, nonprofit organizations, and institutions of higher education to design and implement character education programs.

Assumptions

1. The Department of Education will be able to absorb any costs incurred without additional funding.
2. A school district's cost of developing a character education program would be similar to the cost of curriculum and staff development for a specific subject. Direct costs and labor are estimated at \$1,000 per district. Currently, there are 371 school districts statewide.
3. The Bill does not require school districts to develop character education programs. Some districts have already established such programs. The extent to which programs are developed by the remaining districts will vary between districts. Some districts may choose not to develop programs.

Fiscal Impact

There will be no fiscal impact to the General Fund as a result of HF 2454.

Costs to school districts would not exceed \$1,000 per district and would be incurred only at the school district's discretion.

Source

Department of Education

/s/ Dennis C Prouty

February 21, 2002

The fiscal note and correctional impact statement for this bill was prepared pursuant to Joint Rule 17 and pursuant to Section 2.56, Code of Iowa. Data used in developing this fiscal note and correctional impact statement are available from the Legislative Fiscal Bureau to members of the Legislature upon request.

HOUSE FILE 2454

AN ACT

ENCOURAGING SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO ESTABLISH CHARACTER EDUCATION PROGRAMS, AND DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO PARTNER WITH LOCAL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES AND NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS IN THE DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF CHARACTER EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

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

Section 1. Section 256.18, Code 2001, is amended to read as follows:

256.18 CHARACTER EDUCATION POLICY ---~~PILOT-PROGRAM~~.

1. It is the policy of the general assembly that Iowa's schools be the best and safest possible. To that end, each school is encouraged to instill the highest character and academic excellence in each student, in close cooperation with the student's parents, and with input from the community and educators.

Schools should make every effort, formally and informally, to stress character qualities that will maintain a safe and orderly learning environment, and that will ultimately equip students to be model citizens. These qualities may include but are not limited to honesty, responsibility, respect and care for the person and property of others, self-discipline, understanding of, respect for, and obedience to law and citizenship, courage, initiative, commitment, and perseverance, kindness, compassion, service, and loyalty, fairness, moderation, and patience, and the dignity and necessity of hard work caring, civic virtue and citizenship, justice and fairness, respect, responsibility, trustworthiness, giving, honesty, self-discipline, respect for and obedience to the law, citizenship, courage, initiative, commitment, perseverance, kindness, compassion, service, loyalty, patience, the dignity and necessity of hard work, and any other qualities deemed appropriate by a school.

2. The department of education shall assist schools in accessing financial and curricular resources to implement programs stressing these character qualities. Schools are encouraged to use their existing resources to implement programs stressing these qualities. Whenever possible, the department shall develop partnerships with schools, nonprofit organizations, or an institution of higher education, or with a consortium of two or more of those entities, to design and implement character education programs that may be integrated into classroom instruction and may be carried out with other educational reforms.

~~2. The department of education shall establish a character education pilot program to evaluate methods for incorporating positive character qualities into all levels of the existing educational program. Schools involved in the pilot program may use phase III funds in the establishment of the program.~~

3. The department of education shall report to the state board and to the general assembly regarding the success of any

~~pilot-programs-prior-to-the-completion-of-the-third-year-of-a~~
program character education initiative.

BRENT SIEGRIST
Speaker of the House

MARY E. KRAMER
President of the Senate

I hereby certify that this bill originated in the House and
is known as House File 2454, Seventy-ninth General Assembly.

MARGARET THOMSON
Chief Clerk of the House

Approved 4/5, 2002

THOMAS J. VILSACK
Governor