

MAR 4 2005
EDUCATION

HOUSE FILE 579
BY WENDT

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

A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing a one-year postsecondary readiness 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 579

1 Section 1. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION -- POSTSECONDARY
2 READINESS PILOT PROGRAM.

3 1. There is appropriated from the general fund of the
4 state to the department of education for the fiscal year
5 beginning July 1, 2005, and ending June 30, 2006, the
6 following amount, or so much thereof as is necessary, to be
7 used for the purposes of providing grants to school districts
8 under the postsecondary readiness pilot program established
9 pursuant to this section:

10 \$ 100,000

11 2. A postsecondary readiness pilot program is established
12 to be administered by the department. The department shall
13 develop an application process and grant selection criteria.
14 The purpose of the program shall be to determine, through the
15 use of assessments, how prepared students enrolled in grades
16 eight, ten, and twelve are for postsecondary education or
17 workforce experiences. The grant program shall provide for
18 the selection of three school districts for participation in
19 the postsecondary readiness pilot program. The school
20 districts shall be located in different geographic areas of
21 the state, with enrollments as follows:

22 a. One school district with an actual enrollment of two
23 thousand five hundred or more pupils.

24 b. One school district with an actual enrollment that is
25 greater than six hundred pupils, but less than two thousand
26 five hundred pupils.

27 c. One school district with an actual enrollment of six
28 hundred or fewer pupils.

29 A school district with more than one attendance center
30 serving the grades specified in this section shall select one
31 attendance center for participation in the pilot program.

32 3. A school district receiving grant funds under this
33 section shall use assessments published by the American
34 college testing program, inc., (ACT) as follows:

35 a. For students in grade eight, the explore assessment.

1 b. For students in grade ten, the plan assessment.
2 c. For students in grade twelve, the ACT college entrance
3 examination.

4 4. The participating school districts shall utilize the
5 results of the assessments administered pursuant to subsection
6 3 to identify measures which the school district shall take to
7 improve or expand the school district's curriculum and
8 increase the rigor of the courses offered at the junior high
9 school and high school levels in the school year following the
10 completion of the assessments.

11 5. Each school district receiving grant funds under this
12 section shall submit to the department of education, not later
13 than August 1, 2006, the results of the assessments
14 administered pursuant to subsection 3, the process used to
15 evaluate the school district's current curriculum, and the
16 measures identified by the school district to improve, expand,
17 and increase the rigor of the school district's junior high
18 school and high school curriculum and courses pursuant to
19 subsection 4.

20 6. The department shall evaluate the results of the
21 postsecondary readiness pilot program and shall submit its
22 findings and recommendations to the chairpersons and ranking
23 members of the senate and house standing committees on
24 education and the joint appropriations subcommittee on
25 education by December 15, 2006.

26 EXPLANATION

27 This bill establishes a postsecondary readiness pilot
28 program to be administered by the department of education and
29 appropriates \$100,000 for distribution in the three school
30 districts the department selects to participate in the
31 program. The purpose of the program shall be to determine,
32 through the use of assessments, how prepared students enrolled
33 in grades eight, 10, and 12 are for postsecondary education or
34 workforce experiences. The large, medium, and small-sized
35 school districts selected for participation in the pilot

1 program must be located in different geographic areas of the
2 state.

3 The school districts selected must use assessments
4 published by the American college testing program, inc.

5 The school districts must utilize the assessment results to
6 identify measures for improving or expanding the school
7 district's curriculum and for increasing the rigor of the
8 courses offered at the junior high school and high school
9 levels in the school year following the completion of the
10 assessments.

11 Each participating school district must submit to the
12 department of education, not later than August 1, 2006, the
13 results of the assessments, the process used to evaluate the
14 school district's current curriculum, and the measures
15 identified by the school district to improve, expand, and
16 increase the rigor of the school district's junior high school
17 and high school curriculum and courses. The department must
18 evaluate the results and submit its findings and
19 recommendations to the chairpersons and ranking members of the
20 senate and house standing committees on education and the
21 joint appropriations subcommittee on education by December 15,
22 2006.

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