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EDUCATION

HOUSE FILE 2101

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and PETTENGILL

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

A BILL FOR

1 An Act creating a twenty-first century Iowa scholars program and
2 fund to be administered by the college student aid commission,
3 and requiring the commission to conduct a twenty-first century
4 Iowa scholars program promotion and support study.

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

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1 Section 1. TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY IOWA SCHOLARS PROGRAM
2 PROMOTION AND SUPPORT STUDY. The college student aid
3 commission shall conduct a study of the promotional and
4 support components needed to make Iowa students who are
5 potentially eligible for the twenty-first century Iowa
6 scholars program aware of the program and enthusiastic about
7 participating in the program. The commission shall also
8 develop a plan to promote the program, provide information
9 about the program and easy access to program forms and
10 applications, and encourage participation in the program by
11 potentially eligible students. The plan shall provide for a
12 web page, special scholar publication, a toll-free telephone
13 number, and the placement and utilization of up to fifteen
14 regional program support sites. The regional support sites
15 shall provide tutoring, mentoring, summer camps, cultural and
16 arts outings, sports and recreational activities, college
17 visits, career preparation, job shadowing, internships, study
18 skills, literacy programs, newsletters, community service
19 projects, and parent activities. The commission shall
20 identify the amount anticipated to be necessary to provide
21 funding for the scholarships, based on the results of the
22 study and preliminary estimates of the number of eligible
23 eighth grade pupils. The commission shall submit its plan,
24 findings, recommendations, and a fiscal analysis of the plan
25 to the senate and house of representatives standing committees
26 on education not later than December 15, 2006.

27 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 261.27 TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY IOWA
28 SCHOLARS PROGRAM AND FUND.

29 1. PROGRAM -- ELIGIBILITY. A twenty-first century Iowa
30 scholars program is established to be administered by the
31 college student aid commission. A person who meets the
32 following requirements is eligible for the program:

33 a. Is a resident of Iowa and a citizen of the United
34 States or a lawful permanent resident.

35 b. Is a student enrolled in grade seven or grade eight in

1 a school district or accredited nonpublic school in Iowa, and
2 agrees in writing, on a document also signed by the student's
3 parent or guardian, that the student will:

4 (1) Graduate from a public or accredited nonpublic high
5 school in Iowa whose curricula meets the admission criteria of
6 a community college, an institution of higher learning under
7 the control of the state board of regents, or an accredited
8 private institution as defined in section 261.9.

9 (2) Achieve a cumulative grade point average upon
10 graduation of at least 2.0 on a 4.0 grading scale, or its
11 equivalent if another grading scale is used, for courses taken
12 by the student in grades nine through twelve.

13 (3) Not illegally use controlled substances as defined in
14 section 124.101.

15 (4) Not use tobacco products.

16 (5) Not operate a motor vehicle while intoxicated as
17 prohibited by section 321J.2 or 321J.2A.

18 (6) Not commit a delinquent act as defined in section
19 232.2; or become a runaway child as defined in section 710.8;
20 or a truant, as defined in section 299.8.

21 c. Is a child receiving foster care services paid for by
22 the state under section 234.35 or funded in whole or in part
23 under Title IV-E of the federal Social Security Act; or is a
24 child eligible for free or reduced price meals under the
25 federal National School Lunch Act and the federal Child
26 Nutrition Act of 1966, 42 U.S.C. § 1751-1785.

27 d. Applies in a timely manner for admission to a community
28 college, an institution of higher learning under the control
29 of the state board of regents, or an accredited private
30 institution as defined in section 261.9 and is accepted for
31 admission.

32 e. Applies in a timely manner for any federal and state
33 student financial assistance available to the student to
34 attend a community college, an institution of higher learning
35 under the control of the state board of regents, or an

1 accredited private institution as defined in section 261.9.

2 f. Files a new application, and parents' confidential
3 statement, as applicable, annually on the basis of which the
4 applicant's eligibility for a renewed scholarship will be
5 evaluated and determined.

6 2. FUND ESTABLISHED. A twenty-first century Iowa scholars
7 fund is created in the state treasury as a separate fund under
8 the control of the commission. All moneys deposited or paid
9 into the fund are appropriated and made available to the
10 college student aid commission to be used for scholarships for
11 students meeting all of the requirements of this section,
12 including meeting the requirements agreed to in subsection 1,
13 paragraph "b". The commission shall deposit refunds paid to
14 the commission in accordance with subsection 3 into the
15 twenty-first century Iowa scholars fund. Notwithstanding
16 section 8.33, any balance in the fund on June 30 of each
17 fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund of the state,
18 but shall be available for the purposes of this section in
19 subsequent fiscal years. Scholarships awarded pursuant to
20 this section shall not exceed the resident tuition rate and
21 mandatory fees for the program of enrollment established for
22 institutions of higher learning under the control of the state
23 board of regents.

24 3. DISCONTINUATION OF ATTENDANCE -- REMITTANCE. If the
25 commission finds that a student receiving a scholarship under
26 the program discontinues attendance before the end of any
27 academic period or has violated the agreement signed pursuant
28 to subsection 1, but the discontinuance or violation of the
29 agreement occurs after scholarship moneys have been paid for
30 the academic period, the entire amount of any refund due the
31 student, up to the amount of any payments made by the state,
32 shall be remitted by the postsecondary institution to the
33 commission.

34 4. EXTENT OF SCHOLARSHIP. A qualified resident student in
35 good standing at a community college, an institution of higher

1 learning under the control of the state board of regents, or
2 an accredited private institution as defined in section 261.9
3 may receive scholarships for not more than eight semesters of
4 undergraduate study or the trimester or quarter equivalent if
5 attending the institution on a full-time basis, or for not
6 more than sixteen semesters of undergraduate study or the
7 trimester or quarter equivalent if attending on a part-time
8 basis. A qualified resident student may defer acceptance of
9 scholarships awarded under this section for up to two years
10 following the student's graduation from high school in order
11 that the student may pursue military or other obligations.

12 5. MENTORING PROGRAMS OFFERED BY INSTITUTIONS. Each
13 community college, institution of higher learning under the
14 control of the state board of regents, or accredited private
15 institution which enrolls a student receiving a scholarship in
16 accordance with this section shall develop a specific
17 mentoring program to assist the scholarship recipients through
18 particularized academic and social counseling.

19 EXPLANATION

20 This bill creates a twenty-first century Iowa scholars
21 program and fund to be administered by the college student aid
22 commission to provide scholarships to pay the postsecondary
23 costs of tuition and mandatory fees for Iowa students who are
24 eligible for free or reduced price meals or are receiving
25 foster care who agree, in writing, in grade seven or eight, to
26 graduate with a 2.0 point or better grade point average, to
27 refrain from illegal drug use, committing delinquent acts,
28 driving while intoxicated, tobacco use, and truancy. The bill
29 also requires the commission to conduct a study of the program
30 and to submit its plan, findings, recommendations, and a
31 fiscal analysis of the plan to the senate and house of
32 representatives standing committees on education not later
33 than December 15, 2006.

34 To establish eligibility, students must establish financial
35 need, meet all program eligibility requirements including

1 those agreed to in grade seven or eight, and apply for and be
2 accepted by an accredited postsecondary institution in Iowa.

3 A qualified resident student in good standing at an
4 accredited postsecondary institution may receive scholarships
5 for not more than eight semesters of undergraduate study or
6 the trimester or quarter equivalent if attending the
7 institution on a full-time basis, or for not more than 16
8 semesters or the trimester or quarter equivalent if attending
9 on a part-time basis. The student must annually file a new
10 application for review and evaluation of continued
11 eligibility. The student may also defer participation in the
12 scholarship program for up to two years in order to pursue
13 military or other obligations.

14 Each institution which enrolls a student receiving a
15 scholarship must develop a specific mentoring program to
16 assist the scholarship recipients through particularized
17 academic and social counseling.

18 The twenty-first century Iowa scholars fund is created in
19 the state treasury as a separate fund under the control of the
20 commission. All moneys deposited or paid into the fund are
21 appropriated and made available to the college student aid
22 commission to be used for scholarships as provided in this
23 section.

24 The plan the commission is charged with developing must
25 provide for a web page, special scholar publication, a toll-
26 free telephone number, and the placement and utilization of up
27 to 15 regional program support sites. The sites must provide
28 tutoring, mentoring, summer camps, cultural and arts outings,
29 sports and recreational activities, college visits, career
30 preparation, job shadowing, internships, study skills,
31 literacy programs, newsletters, community service projects,
32 and parent activities. The commission is also charged with
33 identifying the amount anticipated to be necessary to provide
34 funding for the scholarships, based on the results of the
35 study and preliminary estimates of the number of eligible

1 eighth grade pupils.

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