

FEB 7 2011  
EDUCATION

HOUSE FILE 2269  
BY WENDT

Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to the development of an Iowa studies  
2 professional development plan and the establishment of an Iowa  
3 studies committee.

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

5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24

HF 2269

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 303.17 IOWA STUDIES -- FINDINGS  
2 -- CURRICULUM -- COMMITTEE.

3 1. The general assembly finds that Iowa students should  
4 have an appreciation for Iowa through the study of Iowa's  
5 history and government, and Iowa citizens' long and  
6 distinguished record of civic responsibility. A fundamental  
7 need exists to provide Iowa's students with learning  
8 opportunities that assist the students in succeeding in  
9 society and confer upon them the ability to make their own  
10 valuable contributions to Iowa's history.

11 2. The department of cultural affairs shall develop an  
12 Iowa studies professional development plan that includes  
13 professional development materials and training measures to  
14 provide Iowa's teachers with effective ways to infuse Iowa  
15 studies into their classrooms. The materials developed shall  
16 include an active and innovative Iowa studies learning  
17 curriculum that may be integrated into the social studies  
18 requirements for Iowa's secondary school students at the  
19 discretion of each board of directors of a school district or  
20 the authorities in charge of each accredited nonpublic school.  
21 The curriculum shall include lesson plans covering Iowa  
22 history, civics, government, and heritage studies. The  
23 curriculum developed shall contain enough content for the  
24 creation of a course of at least one-half unit of credit.

25 3. a. The director of the department of cultural affairs  
26 shall establish an Iowa studies committee to do the following:

27 (1) Work to inform Iowa's school districts, accredited  
28 nonpublic schools, and area education agencies of the Iowa  
29 studies professional development plan, including how to  
30 effectively utilize the curriculum developed pursuant to  
31 subsection 2.

32 (2) Develop partnerships with organizations such as  
33 nonprofit history or humanities organizations, civic  
34 organizations, libraries, and the business community to  
35 support and promote Iowa studies statewide.

1 (3) Establish evaluation criteria for the Iowa studies  
2 professional development plan, including but not limited to  
3 teacher and student evaluation, student tracking, and  
4 curriculum and plan effectiveness, which may include a survey  
5 of student participation in civic activities and involvement  
6 in the election process.

7 (4) Develop a strategy and plan to allow for the  
8 implementation of the Iowa studies professional development  
9 plan and curriculum in a limited number of schools and area  
10 education agencies across the state. Participation by a  
11 school or area education agency shall be voluntary. However,  
12 a school or area education agency selected to participate in  
13 the plan shall agree to participate in the evaluation  
14 component conducted by the Iowa studies committee pursuant to  
15 subsection 4.

16 b. The Iowa studies committee membership shall be  
17 comprised of the following:

18 (1) The director of the department of cultural affairs or  
19 the director's designee.

20 (2) The director of the department of education or the  
21 director's designee.

22 (3) The secretary of state or the secretary's designee.

23 (4) The state librarian or the state librarian's designee.

24 (5) Additional persons knowledgeable in Iowa studies, who  
25 shall be appointed by the director of the department of  
26 cultural affairs and who shall include but not be limited to  
27 the following:

28 (a) An employee of an area education agency.

29 (b) An individual employed as an Iowa social studies  
30 teacher at a public school.

31 (c) A faculty member of an institution of higher education  
32 governed by the state board of regents.

33 (d) An individual employed by a community college.

34 (e) A faculty member of an accredited private institution  
35 as defined in section 261.9.

- 1 (f) A member of the Iowa council of social studies.  
2 (g) A curriculum specialist for a kindergarten through  
3 grade twelve public school district.  
4 (h) An employee of the public broadcasting division of the  
5 department of education.

6 4. The Iowa studies committee shall do all of the  
7 following:

8 a. Conduct an evaluation of the Iowa studies professional  
9 development plan using the evaluation criteria established by  
10 the committee.

11 b. Submit, for school years ending on or before June 30,  
12 2009, an annual status report on the utilization of the Iowa  
13 studies professional development plan in Iowa's school  
14 districts and accredited nonpublic schools to the chairpersons  
15 and ranking members of the senate and house committees on  
16 education by January 15. The annual report shall include the  
17 number of schools utilizing the plan.

18 c. Submit its findings and recommendations in a final  
19 report based upon the evaluation data compiled in accordance  
20 with subsection 3 to the chairpersons and ranking members of  
21 the senate and house committees on education by January 15,  
22 2010.

23 5. This section is repealed effective July 1, 2010.

24 EXPLANATION

25 This bill establishes the general assembly's findings with  
26 regard to the need for Iowa's students to have an appreciation  
27 for the state through the study of its history, government,  
28 and long and distinguished record of civic activities and  
29 contributions. The bill requires the department of cultural  
30 affairs to develop an Iowa studies professional development  
31 plan that includes a professional development curriculum and  
32 supporting materials and training measures to provide Iowa's  
33 teachers with effective ways to infuse Iowa studies into their  
34 secondary school classrooms.

35 The bill requires the director of the department to

1 establish an Iowa studies committee to work to inform Iowa's  
2 school districts, accredited nonpublic schools, and area  
3 education agencies of the Iowa studies professional  
4 development plan, develop partnerships to support and promote  
5 Iowa studies statewide, establish evaluation criteria for the  
6 Iowa studies professional development plan, and develop a  
7 strategy and plan to allow for the implementation of the  
8 professional development plan and curriculum in a limited  
9 number of schools and AEAs across the state.

10 The committee is directed to conduct an evaluation of the  
11 Iowa studies professional development plan, submit an annual  
12 status report on the utilization of the Iowa studies  
13 professional development plan, and, by January 15, 2010,  
14 submit a final report, to the chairpersons and ranking members  
15 of the senate and house committees on education.

16 The bill is repealed July 1, 2010.

17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35