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SENATE FILE 306 EDUCATION
BY TINSMAN

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

A BILL FOR

1 An Act providing for the establishment of a regional academy
2 pilot program.

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

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EDUCATION

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1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 257.11B REGIONAL ACADEMIES --
2 PILOT PROGRAM.

3 1. The general assembly finds that the most efficient and
4 effective use of the state's educational resources may be
5 achieved through the consolidation of the resources of
6 multiple school districts to facilitate widespread access to
7 advanced level coursework and instruction of the highest
8 caliber which might otherwise not be available to high school
9 students. The general assembly additionally finds that
10 existing approaches to encourage the establishment of regional
11 academies should be enhanced through the allocation of
12 increased financial incentives, and the results of this
13 allocation should be monitored and evaluated to determine
14 whether regional academies have the potential to meaningfully
15 expand the educational opportunities of students throughout
16 the state.

17 2. The department of education shall establish a regional
18 academy pilot program to encourage the formation of regional
19 academies. For the purposes of the pilot program, a regional
20 academy means the same as defined in section 257.11,
21 subsection 5, paragraph "b". The department shall develop and
22 distribute an application form to every school district in
23 this state, requesting the submission of an application by
24 school districts interested in the formation of a regional
25 academy and accompanied by an implementation strategy. The
26 application form shall specify an application deadline of
27 October 1, 2006. The department shall review the
28 applications, group together applications involving contiguous
29 school districts by geographic region, and select three
30 regions across the state for participation in the pilot
31 program. Selection of the regions and notification of the
32 school districts involved shall take place by November 1,
33 2006.

34 3. For a five-year period beginning with the school budget
35 year commencing July 1, 2007, and ending with the school

1 budget year commencing July 1, 2011, in addition to the
2 supplementary weighting received pursuant to section 257.11,
3 subsection 5, paragraph "b", resident pupils in a school
4 district or school districts participating in the pilot
5 program pursuant to this section shall receive an additional
6 weighting of four-tenths of the percentage of the pupil's
7 school day during which the pupil attends classes at the
8 regional academy. During the fifth year of the program, the
9 department shall conduct an evaluation of the effectiveness of
10 the program in encouraging the formation of regional
11 academies, and shall assess the impact of attendance at the
12 academy on student academic performance. The department shall
13 submit a report of its findings to the general assembly by
14 January 1, 2013.

15 EXPLANATION

16 This bill provides for the establishment of a regional
17 academy pilot program. The bill provides that the general
18 assembly finds that the efficient and effective use of the
19 state's educational resources may be achieved through
20 consolidation of multiple school district resources to
21 facilitate widespread access to advanced level coursework and
22 instruction of the highest caliber which might otherwise not
23 be available to high school students. The bill provides that
24 the general assembly additionally finds that existing
25 approaches to encourage the establishment of regional
26 academies should be enhanced through the allocation of
27 increased financial incentives.

28 The bill requires the department of education to establish
29 a regional academy pilot program to encourage the formation of
30 regional academies. The bill defines a regional academy as in
31 Code section 257.11, subsection 5, paragraph "b". The bill
32 provides that the department shall develop and distribute an
33 application form, requesting the submission of an application
34 by school districts interested in the formation of a regional
35 academy and accompanied by an implementation strategy, to

1 every school district in the state, specifying an application
2 deadline of October 1, 2006. The bill provides that the
3 department shall review the applications, and shall group
4 together applications involving contiguous school districts by
5 geographic region, ultimately selecting three regions across
6 the state for participation in the pilot program by November
7 1, 2006.

8 The bill provides that for a five-year period beginning
9 with the school budget year commencing July 1, 2007, and
10 ending with the school budget year commencing July 1, 2011, in
11 addition to the supplementary weighting received pursuant to
12 Code section 257.11, subsection 5, paragraph "b", resident
13 pupils in a school district or school districts participating
14 in the program will receive an additional weighting of four-
15 tenths of the percentage of the pupil's school day during
16 which the pupil attends classes at the regional academy. The
17 bill provides that the department shall conduct an evaluation
18 of the effectiveness of the program in encouraging the
19 formation of regional academies, assess the impact of
20 attendance at the academy on student academic performance, and
21 submit a report of its findings to the general assembly by
22 January 1, 2013.

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