

House Study Bill 692 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON
APPROPRIATIONS BILL BY
CHAIRPERSON MOHR)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to school security, including by modifying
2 provisions related to the issuance of school bonds,
3 requiring schools to conduct school safety reviews and have
4 access to the statewide interoperable communications system,
5 establishing the school emergency radio access grant program
6 and the firearm detection software grant program within the
7 department of homeland security and emergency management,
8 requiring the department of public safety to convene a
9 task force related to the safety and security standards of
10 schools and school infrastructure, making appropriations,
11 and including effective date provisions.
12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 298.21, Code 2024, is amended to read as
2 follows:

3 **298.21 School bonds.**

4 1. The Subject to subsection 2, the board of directors of
5 any school corporation when authorized by the voters at an
6 election held on a date specified in section 39.2, subsection
7 4, paragraph "d", may issue the negotiable, interest-bearing
8 school bonds of the corporation for borrowing money for any or
9 all of the following purposes:

10 ~~1. a.~~ To acquire sites for school purposes.

11 ~~2. b.~~ To erect, complete, or improve buildings authorized
12 for school purposes.

13 ~~3. c.~~ To acquire equipment for schools, sites, and
14 buildings.

15 2. The board of directors of a school corporation shall not
16 issue negotiable, interest-bearing school bonds for borrowing
17 money for purposes of constructing a new school building or
18 site to be used primarily for interscholastic athletic contests
19 or competitions, or renovating or improving a school building
20 or site that is currently used primarily for interscholastic
21 athletic contests or competitions, unless all of the attendance
22 centers of the school corporation are in compliance with the
23 provisions of the state building code, adopted on or after the
24 effective date of this Act, related to the construction of new
25 attendance centers and the renovation of existing attendance
26 centers that incorporate standards designed to increase the
27 safety of schools and school infrastructure.

28 **Sec. 2. REQUIRED SCHOOL SAFETY REVIEW.**

29 1. Each school district, accredited nonpublic school,
30 charter school established pursuant to chapter 256E, charter
31 school established pursuant to chapter 256F, and innovation
32 zone school established pursuant to chapter 256F shall complete
33 a comprehensive review and evaluation of the school's ability
34 to ensure the safety of students enrolled in the school and
35 of school employees, including a review and evaluation of

1 the school's plan for responses to active shooter scenarios
2 and natural disasters and the school's safety and security
3 infrastructure. The results of the comprehensive review and
4 evaluation shall be confidential and shall not be a public
5 record subject to disclosure under chapter 22.

6 2. On or before the first day of the school calendar
7 established pursuant to section 279.10, subsection 1, for the
8 school year beginning July 1, 2024, each school district,
9 accredited nonpublic school, charter school established
10 pursuant to chapter 256E, charter school established pursuant
11 to chapter 256F, and innovation zone school established
12 pursuant to chapter 256F shall submit the results of
13 the comprehensive review and evaluation to all local law
14 enforcement agencies, including police forces of the counties
15 in which school attendance centers are located, the local
16 district office of the state patrol, and, if applicable, the
17 police forces of the cities in which school attendance centers
18 are located.

19 Sec. 3. REQUIRED ACCESS TO STATEWIDE INTEROPERABLE
20 COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM — DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND
21 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT GRANT PROGRAM — APPROPRIATION.

22 1. On or before the first day of the school calendar
23 established pursuant to section 279.10, subsection 1, for the
24 school year beginning July 1, 2024, each school district,
25 accredited nonpublic school, charter school established
26 pursuant to chapter 256E, charter school established pursuant
27 to chapter 256F, and innovation zone school established
28 pursuant to chapter 256F is required to have at least one
29 handheld or console radio that is capable of accessing
30 the statewide interoperable communications system at each
31 attendance center.

32 2. a. The department of homeland security and emergency
33 management shall establish a school emergency radio access
34 grant program to provide grants to school districts, accredited
35 nonpublic schools, charter schools established pursuant to

1 chapter 256E, charter schools established pursuant to chapter
2 256F, and innovation zone schools established pursuant to
3 chapter 256F that, as of January 1, 2024, did not have at least
4 one handheld or console radio that was capable of accessing
5 the statewide interoperable communications system at each
6 attendance center operated by the school, to help such schools
7 offset the cost associated with purchasing and, if applicable,
8 installing, such a handheld or console radio.

9 b. The department of homeland security and emergency
10 management shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A to
11 administer this section, including rules relating to grant
12 application materials and award criteria.

13 c. Moneys awarded under this section shall be used to
14 supplement, not supplant, existing public funding used by
15 school districts for similar purposes.

16 3. a. There is appropriated from the 911 emergency
17 communications fund established pursuant to section 34A.7A to
18 the department of homeland security and emergency management
19 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30,
20 2024, the following amount, or so much thereof as is necessary,
21 to be used for the purposes designated:

22 For purposes of the school emergency radio access grant
23 program established pursuant to subsection 2, if enacted:
24 \$ 3,000,000

25 b. Notwithstanding section 8.33, moneys appropriated in
26 this subsection that remain unencumbered or unobligated at the
27 close of the fiscal year shall not revert but shall remain
28 available for expenditure for the purposes designated until the
29 close of the succeeding fiscal year.

30 Sec. 4. FIREARM DETECTION SOFTWARE PILOT PROGRAM —
31 DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT —
32 APPROPRIATION.

33 1. The department of homeland security and emergency
34 management shall establish a firearm detection software grant
35 program to provide grants to school districts to help such

1 school districts offset the cost associated with purchasing,
2 installing, and operating software that meets all of the
3 following requirements:

4 a. Is designed to detect and alert school district employees
5 and first responders if there is a visible, unholstered firearm
6 on property owned by the school district.

7 b. Is designated by the secretary of homeland security as
8 qualified anti-terrorism technology under 6 U.S.C. §441 et seq.

9 c. Is designed to integrate with a school district's
10 existing security camera infrastructure.

11 d. Was developed in the United States without the use of any
12 third-party data or open-source data.

13 2. The department of homeland security and emergency
14 management shall provide at least one grant under the firearm
15 detection software grant program to each of the following
16 school districts:

17 a. A school district with a total enrollment in the school
18 year beginning July 1, 2023, that was among the forty-eight
19 largest total enrollment amounts in the state.

20 b. A school district with a total enrollment in the school
21 year beginning July 1, 2023, that was among the next sixty-four
22 largest total enrollment amounts in the state, after the school
23 districts described in paragraph "a".

24 c. A school district that is not described in paragraph "a"
25 or "b".

26 3. The department of homeland security and emergency
27 management shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A to
28 administer this section, including rules relating to grant
29 application materials and award criteria.

30 4. Moneys awarded under this section shall be used to
31 supplement, not supplant, existing public funding used by
32 school districts for similar purposes.

33 5. a. Each school district that receives a grant pursuant
34 to this section shall, in coordination with the department of
35 homeland security and emergency management and the department

1 of public safety's school safety bureau, evaluate the
2 effectiveness of the software purchased with moneys awarded
3 under this section in protecting students, school personnel,
4 and the public.

5 b. Each school district that receives a grant pursuant
6 to this section shall submit an initial evaluation of the
7 effectiveness of the software purchased with moneys awarded
8 under this section to the general assembly on or before
9 December 15, 2024.

10 c. Each school district that receives a grant pursuant
11 to this section shall submit a final evaluation of the
12 effectiveness of the software purchased with moneys awarded
13 under this section to the general assembly on or before
14 December 15, 2025.

15 6. a. There is appropriated from the general fund of the
16 state to the department of homeland security and emergency
17 management for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, and
18 ending June 30, 2024, the following amount, or so much thereof
19 as is necessary, to be used for the purposes designated:

20 For purposes of the firearm detection software grant program
21 established pursuant to subsection 1, if enacted:

22 \$ 350,000

23 b. Notwithstanding section 8.33, moneys appropriated in
24 this subsection that remain unencumbered or unobligated at the
25 close of the fiscal year shall not revert but shall remain
26 available for expenditure for the purposes designated until the
27 close of the succeeding fiscal year.

28 Sec. 5. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, DEPARTMENT OF
29 EDUCATION, AND DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY
30 MANAGEMENT — SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY INFRASTRUCTURE
31 STANDARDS — TASK FORCE.

32 1. The department of public safety, in collaboration with
33 the department of education and the department of homeland
34 security and emergency management, shall convene and provide
35 administrative support to a task force that shall study

1 and make recommendations related to the safety and security
2 standards of schools and school infrastructure, including
3 safety and security standards related to doors, windows,
4 cameras, and locks.

5 2. Any expenses incurred by a member of the task force
6 shall be the responsibility of the individual member or the
7 respective entity represented by the member.

8 3. The task force shall submit its findings and
9 recommendations to the general assembly on or before December
10 31, 2024. The findings and recommendations shall include a
11 proposal for modifications to the state building code that
12 are applicable to the construction of new attendance centers
13 and the renovation of existing attendance centers and that
14 incorporate standards designed to increase the safety of
15 schools and school infrastructure.

16 Sec. 6. EMERGENCY RULES. The department of homeland
17 security and emergency management may adopt emergency
18 rules under section 17A.4, subsection 3, and section 17A.5,
19 subsection 2, paragraph "b", to implement the provisions of
20 this Act establishing the school emergency radio access grant
21 program and the firearm detection software grant program, and
22 the rules shall be effective immediately upon filing unless
23 a later date is specified in the rules. Any rules adopted
24 in accordance with this section shall also be published as a
25 notice of intended action as provided in section 17A.4.

26 Sec. 7. STATE MANDATE FUNDING SPECIFIED. In accordance
27 with section 25B.2, subsection 3, the state cost of requiring
28 compliance with any state mandate included in this Act shall
29 be paid by a school district from state school foundation aid
30 received by the school district under section 257.16. This
31 specification of the payment of the state cost shall be deemed
32 to meet all of the state funding-related requirements of
33 section 25B.2, subsection 3, and no additional state funding
34 shall be necessary for the full implementation of this Act
35 by and enforcement of this Act against all affected school

1 districts.

2 Sec. 8. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act, being deemed of immediate
3 importance, takes effect upon enactment.

4 EXPLANATION

5 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
6 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

7 This bill relates to school security, including by modifying
8 provisions related to the issuance of school bonds, requiring
9 schools to conduct school safety reviews and have access to the
10 statewide interoperable communications system, establishing the
11 school emergency radio access grant program and the firearm
12 detection software grant program within the department of
13 homeland security and emergency management, and requiring the
14 department of public safety to convene a task force related
15 to the safety and security standards of schools and school
16 infrastructure.

17 The bill requires each school district, accredited nonpublic
18 school, charter school, and innovation zone school to complete
19 a comprehensive review and evaluation of the school's ability
20 to ensure the safety of students enrolled in the school and of
21 school employees. The bill provides that the results of the
22 comprehensive review and evaluation shall be confidential and
23 shall not be a public record subject to disclosure. The bill
24 establishes that, on or before the first day of the school
25 calendar for the school year beginning July 1, 2024, each
26 school is required to submit the results of the comprehensive
27 review and evaluation to all local law enforcement agencies.

28 The bill requires that, on or before the first day of
29 the school calendar for the school year beginning July 1,
30 2024, each school district, accredited nonpublic school,
31 charter school, and innovation zone school is required to have
32 at least one handheld or console radio that is capable of
33 accessing the statewide interoperable communications system
34 at each attendance center operated by the school. The bill
35 provides that the department of homeland security and emergency

1 management shall establish a school emergency radio access
2 grant program to provide grants to schools that, as of January
3 1, 2024, did not have at least one handheld or console radio
4 that was capable of accessing such system at each attendance
5 center operated by the school, to help such schools offset the
6 cost associated with purchasing and installing such radio.
7 The bill authorizes the department to adopt emergency rules
8 to implement the program. The bill appropriates \$3 million
9 from the 911 emergency communications fund for FY 2023-2024
10 for purposes of the grant program. The bill provides that if
11 these moneys remain unencumbered or unobligated at the close of
12 the fiscal year, the moneys shall not revert but shall remain
13 available for expenditure for the purposes designated until
14 the close of the succeeding fiscal year. The bill establishes
15 that moneys awarded under this provision shall be used to
16 supplement, not supplant, existing public funding used by
17 school districts for similar purposes.

18 The bill requires the department of homeland security
19 and emergency management to establish a firearm detection
20 software grant program to provide grants to school districts
21 to help such school districts offset the cost associated
22 with purchasing, installing, and operating software that is
23 designed to detect and alert school district employees and
24 first responders if there is a visible, unholstered firearm on
25 property owned by the school district, is designated by the
26 secretary of homeland security as qualified anti-terrorism
27 technology, is designed to integrate with a school district's
28 existing security camera infrastructure, and was developed in
29 the United States without the use of any third-party data or
30 open-source data. The bill authorizes the department to adopt
31 emergency rules to implement the program. The bill requires
32 the department to award at least one grant under the program to
33 certain specified schools. The bill appropriates \$350,000 from
34 the general fund of the state for FY 2023-2024 for purposes
35 of the grant program. The bill provides that if these moneys

1 remain unencumbered or unobligated at the close of the fiscal
2 year, the moneys shall not revert but shall remain available
3 for expenditure for the purposes designated until the close of
4 the succeeding fiscal year. The bill establishes that moneys
5 awarded under this provision shall be used to supplement, not
6 supplant, existing public funding used by school districts for
7 similar purposes. The bill requires school districts that
8 receive a grant to, in coordination with the department of
9 homeland security and emergency management and the department
10 of public safety's school safety bureau, evaluate the
11 effectiveness of the software purchased with moneys awarded
12 under this provision in protecting students, school personnel,
13 and the public and submit reports to the general assembly.

14 The bill requires the department of public safety, in
15 collaboration with the department of education and the
16 department of homeland security and emergency management, to
17 convene a task force to study and make recommendations related
18 to the safety and security standards of schools and school
19 infrastructure. The bill requires the task force to submit
20 its findings and recommendations to the general assembly on or
21 before December 31, 2024. The findings and recommendations are
22 required to include a proposal for modifications to the state
23 building code that are applicable to the construction of new
24 attendance centers and the renovation of existing attendance
25 centers and that incorporate standards designed to increase
26 the safety of schools and school infrastructure. The bill
27 prohibits the board of directors of a school corporation from
28 issuing negotiable, interest-bearing school bonds for borrowing
29 money for purposes of constructing a new school building or
30 site to be used primarily for interscholastic athletic contests
31 or competitions, or renovating or improving a building or site
32 that is currently used for such purposes, unless all of the
33 attendance centers of the school corporation are in compliance
34 with these modified provisions of the state building code, if
35 adopted.

1 The bill may include a state mandate as defined in Code
2 section 25B.3. The bill requires that the state cost of
3 any state mandate included in the bill be paid by a school
4 district from state school foundation aid received by the
5 school district under Code section 257.16. The specification
6 is deemed to constitute state compliance with any state mandate
7 funding-related requirements of Code section 25B.2. The
8 inclusion of this specification is intended to reinstate the
9 requirement of political subdivisions to comply with any state
10 mandates included in the bill.

11 The bill takes effect upon enactment.