

House Study Bill 587 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE
ON EDUCATION BILL BY
CHAIRPERSON WHEELER)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to education, including by modifying the social
2 studies curriculum provided to students enrolled in grades
3 one through twelve in school districts, charter schools, and
4 innovation zone schools, and modifying the responsibilities
5 of school districts, charter schools, and innovation zone
6 schools related to requiring teachers and students to sing
7 the national anthem.
8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 256.11, subsections 3 and 4, Code 2024,
2 are amended to read as follows:

3 3. a. The following areas shall be taught in grades
4 one through six: English-language arts, social studies,
5 mathematics, science, health, physical education, traffic
6 safety, music, visual art, and, subject to [section 279.80](#),
7 age-appropriate and research-based human growth and
8 development. Computer science instruction incorporating
9 the standards established under section 256.7, subsection
10 26, paragraph "a", subparagraph (4), shall be offered in
11 at least one grade level commencing with the school year
12 beginning July 1, 2023. The health curriculum shall include
13 the characteristics of communicable diseases. The state board
14 as part of accreditation standards shall adopt curriculum
15 definitions for implementing the elementary program.

16 b. The social studies curriculum shall include instruction
17 related to the words and music of the national anthem,
18 the meaning and history of the national anthem, the object
19 and principles of the government of the United States, the
20 sacrifices made by the founders of the United States, the
21 important contributions made by all who have served in the
22 armed forces of the United States since the founding, and how
23 to love, honor, and respect the national anthem.

24 c. Paragraph "b" shall not apply to a nonpublic school.

25 4. a. The following shall be taught in grades seven and
26 eight: English-language arts; social studies; mathematics;
27 science; health; age-appropriate and research-based human
28 growth and development; career exploration and development;
29 physical education; music; and visual art. Computer science
30 instruction incorporating the standards established under
31 section 256.7, subsection 26, paragraph "a", subparagraph (4),
32 shall be offered in at least one grade level commencing with
33 the school year beginning July 1, 2023. Career exploration
34 and development shall be designed so that students are
35 appropriately prepared to create an individual career

1 and academic plan pursuant to [section 279.61](#), incorporate
2 foundational career and technical education concepts aligned
3 with the six career and technical education service areas as
4 defined in [subsection 5](#), paragraph “h”, incorporate relevant
5 twenty-first century skills to facilitate career readiness,
6 and introduce students to career opportunities within the
7 local community and across this state. The health curriculum
8 shall include age-appropriate and research-based information
9 regarding the characteristics of sexually transmitted diseases.
10 The state board as part of accreditation standards shall adopt
11 curriculum definitions for implementing the program in grades
12 seven and eight. However, [this subsection](#) shall not apply to
13 the teaching of career exploration and development in nonpublic
14 schools.

15 b. The social studies curriculum shall include instruction
16 related to the words and music of the national anthem,
17 the meaning and history of the national anthem, the object
18 and principles of the government of the United States, the
19 sacrifices made by the founders of the United States, the
20 important contributions made by all who have served in the
21 armed forces of the United States since the founding, and how
22 to love, honor, and respect the national anthem.

23 c. Paragraph “b” shall not apply to a nonpublic school.

24 Sec. 2. Section 256.11, subsection 5, paragraph b, Code
25 2024, is amended to read as follows:

26 *b.* Five units of the social studies including instruction
27 in voting statutes and procedures, voter registration
28 requirements, the use of paper ballots and voting systems in
29 the election process, and the method of acquiring and casting
30 an absentee ballot. All students shall complete a minimum
31 of one-half unit of United States government and one unit of
32 United States history.

33 (1) The one-half unit of United States government shall
34 include the voting procedure as described in this lettered
35 paragraph and [section 280.9A](#). The government instruction shall

1 also include a study of the Constitution of the United States
2 and the Bill of Rights contained in the Constitution and an
3 assessment of a student's knowledge of the Constitution and the
4 Bill of Rights.

5 (2) The one unit of United States history shall include
6 instruction related to the words and music of the national
7 anthem, the meaning and history of the national anthem, the
8 object and principles of the government of the United States,
9 the sacrifices made by the founders of the United States, the
10 important contributions made by all who have served in the
11 armed forces of the United States since the founding, and how
12 to love, honor, and respect the national anthem.

13 (3) Subparagraph (2) shall not apply to a nonpublic school.

14 Sec. 3. Section 256E.7, subsection 2, paragraph g, Code
15 2024, is amended to read as follows:

16 g. Be subject to and comply with the requirements of
17 section 256.7, subsection 21, and the educational standards
18 of section 256.11, unless specifically waived by the state
19 board during the application process; provided, however, that
20 the state board shall not waive the educational standards
21 related to social studies instruction established in section
22 256.11, subsections 3 and 4, and section 256.11, subsection 5,
23 paragraph "b", subparagraph (2).

24 Sec. 4. Section 256E.7, subsection 2, Code 2024, is amended
25 by adding the following new paragraph:

26 NEW PARAGRAPH. Or. Be subject to and comply with
27 the requirements of section 280.5A relating to required
28 participation in the singing of the national anthem in the same
29 manner as a school district.

30 Sec. 5. Section 256F.4, subsection 2, Code 2024, is amended
31 by adding the following new paragraphs:

32 NEW PARAGRAPH. p. Be subject to and comply with the
33 requirements of section 256.11, subsections 3 and 4, and
34 section 256.11, subsection 5, paragraph "b", subparagraph (2),
35 relating to social studies instruction in the same manner as

1 a school district.

2 NEW PARAGRAPH. *g.* Be subject to and comply with
3 the requirements of section 280.5A relating to required
4 participation in the singing of the national anthem in the same
5 manner as a school district.

6 Sec. 6. NEW SECTION. **280.5A National anthem.**

7 1. The board of directors of each public school shall
8 require all teachers providing classroom instruction and all
9 students in attendance to sing at least one verse of the
10 national anthem each school day. When the national anthem
11 is being sung pursuant to this subsection, all teachers and
12 students who are physically able shall stand at attention and
13 remove any headdress that is not being worn for religious
14 purposes.

15 2. The board of directors of each public school shall
16 require all teachers providing classroom instruction and all
17 students in attendance to sing the entire national anthem
18 during the school day on patriotic occasions, as determined by
19 the board of directors of the public school. When the national
20 anthem is being sung pursuant to this subsection, all teachers
21 and students who are physically able shall stand at attention
22 and remove any headdress that is not being worn for religious
23 purposes.

24 3. The board of directors of each public school may require
25 teachers and students in attendance at any school function
26 or school-sponsored activity to sing the entire national
27 anthem immediately prior to the beginning of the function or
28 activity. When the national anthem is being sung pursuant to
29 this subsection, all teachers and students who are physically
30 able shall stand at attention and remove any headdress that is
31 not being worn for religious purposes.

32 4. *a.* Notwithstanding subsections 1 through 3, a teacher
33 or student shall not be compelled against the teacher's or
34 student's objections to sing any portion of the national
35 anthem. The board of directors of each public school shall

1 provide notice to all teachers and students of a teacher's
2 and student's ability to object to singing any portion of the
3 national anthem.

b. The board of directors of each public school shall require a teacher or student who does not sing any portion of the national anthem to show full respect to the national anthem while the verse or verses are being sung by standing at attention, if physically able, and maintaining a respectful silence.

5. If a teacher does not participate in the singing of any portion of the national anthem pursuant to subsection 4, the teacher or the principal of the attendance center where the teacher is providing classroom instruction shall select another suitable person to lead the teacher's class in the singing of the national anthem.

16 6. The board of directors of each public school shall
17 prohibit any assessment or evaluation of any teacher or student
18 from referencing whether the teacher or student participated
19 in, or objected to participating in, any singing of any portion
20 of the national anthem.

21 Sec. 7. IMPLEMENTATION OF ACT. Section 25B.2, subsection
22 3, shall not apply to this Act.

23 EXPLANATION

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

26 This bill relates to education, including by modifying the
27 social studies curriculum provided to students enrolled in
28 grades 1 through 12 in school districts, charter schools, and
29 innovation zone schools, and modifying the responsibilities of
30 school districts, charter schools, and innovation zone schools
31 related to requiring teachers and students to sing the national
32 anthem.

33 The bill modifies the social studies curriculum provided to
34 students enrolled in grades 1 through 12 in school districts,
35 charter schools, and innovation zone schools to require

1 instruction related to the words and music of the national
2 anthem, the meaning and history of the national anthem, the
3 object and principles of the government of the United States,
4 the sacrifices made by the founders of the United States, the
5 important contributions made by all who have served in the
6 armed forces of the United States since the founding, and how
7 to love, honor, and respect the national anthem.

8 The bill provides that school districts, charter schools,
9 and innovation zone schools shall require all teachers
10 providing classroom instruction and all students to sing at
11 least one verse of the national anthem each school day and
12 to sing the entire national anthem during the school day on
13 patriotic occasions. The bill establishes that, when the
14 national anthem is being sung, all teachers and students who
15 are physically able are required to stand at attention and
16 remove any headdress that is not being worn for religious
17 purposes.

18 The bill provides that school districts, charter schools,
19 and innovation zone schools may require teachers and students
20 in attendance at any school function or school-sponsored
21 activity to sing the entire national anthem immediately
22 prior to the beginning of the function or activity. The bill
23 establishes that, when the national anthem is being sung, all
24 teachers and students who are physically able are required to
25 stand at attention and remove any headdress that is not being
26 worn for religious purposes.

27 The bill provides that, notwithstanding these requirements,
28 neither a teacher nor a student shall be compelled against
29 the teacher's or student's objections to sing any portion
30 of the national anthem. The bill requires the school to
31 provide notice to all teachers and students of a teacher's
32 and student's ability to object to singing any portion of the
33 national anthem. The bill provides that the school shall
34 require a teacher or student who does not sing any portion
35 of the national anthem to show full respect to the national

1 anthem while the verse or verses are being sung by standing at
2 attention, if physically able, and maintaining a respectful
3 silence.

4 The bill establishes that if a teacher does not participate
5 in the singing of any portion of the national anthem, the
6 teacher or the principal of the attendance center where the
7 teacher is providing classroom instruction is required to
8 select another suitable person to lead the teacher's class in
9 the singing of the national anthem.

10 The bill requires schools to prohibit any assessment
11 or evaluation of any teacher or student from referencing
12 whether the teacher or student participated in, or objected to
13 participating in, any singing of any portion of the national
14 anthem.

15 The bill may include a state mandate as defined in Code
16 section 25B.3. The bill makes inapplicable Code section
17 25B.2(3), which would relieve a school district from complying
18 with a state mandate if funding for the cost of the state
19 mandate is not provided or specified. Therefore, school
20 districts are required to comply with any state mandate
21 included in the bill.