



IOWA HOUSE DEMOCRATS

REVISED BILL AND AMENDMENT SUMMARY

Home Schoolers Allowed to Take ILO Classes HF 2367/SF 2131

Status of Bill: HF 2367 and SF 2131 on House Calendar
Committee: HF 2367 Education (13-9); SF 2131 Passed Senate 48-0 on 2/20
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Bill Summary

The Department of Education's (DE) Iowa Learning Online (ILO) initiative would be expanded to allow home schoolers access to the program. Currently, only school districts and accredited nonpublic schools may partner with the initiative to receive ILO classes, and the participating school district, or nonpublic school would receive the grades for recording for graduation. Under the bill, a person providing the instruction would receive the student's scores for completed coursework for the home school student.

Currently, a home schooler may dual enroll with their district of residence to take classes and are awarded credit by the school district. For example if they wanted to take a Science or Math class. Many home schoolers take music, or art classes at their local school district. This bill would now allow them to take slots for classes under ILO even if their local district of residence offers the class. For other students around the state, ILO may be their only option if their school does not offer the course, or they have a scheduling conflict.

The bill eliminates absolute code provisions with appropriations to the ILO program.

DE charges an enrollment fee of \$260 per student, per semester for an enrolled ILO student. Under the bill, the parent or guardian would have to pay the fee from the program to participate. Here are the possible fee scenarios if the bill were to pass:

Public Schools: If a public school student chooses to enroll in an ILO class, the public school must pay the student's course fees during the fall and spring terms (as they are receiving state funding to support that student's education). During the summer term, however, they may pass on the cost of the fee to the student's parent or guardian. This would **not** change under the bill.

Private Schools: If a private school student chooses to enroll in an ILO class, it is up to the private school to decide whether or not to pass along the fee to the parent or guardian. This would **not** change under the bill.

Home School: If a home schooler is allowed under this bill to enroll in ILO classes, the home school's parent or guardian would be responsible for the student's course fees.

Amendment Summary to HF 2367:

H-8052 by Mascher: Home school Regulations in Place Prior to Ed Reform

This amendment will be withdrawn since it is filed to the Senate File.

After the withdraw of this amendment, SF 2131 will be substituted for HF 2367.

Amendment Summary to SF 2131:

H-8081 by Mascher: Home school Regulations in Place Prior to Ed Reform

The amendment strikes everything after the enacting clause and replaces the bill to bring Iowa's home school system back to the way it was prior to the Ed Reform bill of 2013. This would include the following actions:

1. It would put back in place the reporting requirement so a home school parent or guardian would have to state the name and the age of the student, and the period of time that the student will be home schooled. It also requires an outline of the course. The parent or guardian is required to ensure either that the student is evaluated annually to determine adequate progress, or ensure the results of annual evaluation are reported to the school district (this is like in Hunter's H-8076).
2. Eliminates the home school option of not reporting to the school district.
3. The amendment also repeals the ability of a home school parent or guardian to teach the student driver's education as long as they have a valid driver's license that permits unaccompanied driving and has a clear driving record for the previous two years.
4. It also eliminates the ability of a home school parent or guardian ability to teach four unrelated students.

H-8087 by Winckler: Workgroup By DE to Study Access On-line Education

The amendment strikes everything after the enacting clause and would have the director of the DE to convene a work group in coordination with the Community Colleges and AEA's, to identify ways that students may access on-line education and form partnerships with existing providers. Findings will be provided to the Legislature, school districts, nonpublic schools and a leading advocate organization of competent private instruction by Oct. 15, 2018. The amendment takes effect upon enactment.

H-8113 by Winckler: Workgroup AEA's to Study Access On-line Education

Similar to H-8087, but the Area Education Agencies (AEA's) would do the study. The amendment strikes everything after the enacting clause and would have the Area Education Agencies to convene a work group in coordination with the Community Colleges, to identify ways that students may access on-line education and form partnerships with existing providers. Findings will be provided to the Legislature, school districts, nonpublic schools and a leading advocate organization of competent private instruction by Oct. 15, 2018. The amendment takes effect upon enactment.

H-8086 by Breckenridge: Parent Teacher Conferences Required

ILO would be required to have a parent teacher conference mid semester and after the course has been completed with **ALL** students that is taken courses through the initiative. The conference may be face to face or completed by electronic means through the ICN or other electronic communication means.

H-8090 by Mascher: Student Scores Received from District, and Report on Student Progress

Current law requires that the ILO courses be rigorous and high quality, and that the DE will annually evaluate the quality of the courses to ensure that the coursework is aligned with the state's core curriculum and core content requirements. The amendment adds the a requirement that DE will receive the student score's from the district. Then, the DE is required to report to Legislature a summary of the home school student's progress in aggregate form without identifying the individual student . It will provide a detailed analysis of the home school student's course completion rates. The report's due date to the Legislature is January 15th annually. For every year beyond, the DE is to include an analysis of the data comparison to previous year.

H-8096 by Winckler: Transfers ILO from DE to the Area Education Agencies (AEA's)

Since the AEA's have the ability and are currently assisting school districts with providing on-line classes, and can do it for less cost than the DE provides through ILO, the amendment transfers ILO to the AEA's. Under the amendment, the DE is required to transfer the ILO initiative to Iowa Area Education Agency On-Line. The

AEA's are required to partner with school districts and accredited nonpublic schools to provide distance education to high school students. The AEA's are required to utilize a variety of content repositories, including those maintained by the public broadcasting division, in administering the initiative, and to establish a clearinghouse of responsibilities. Throughout the rest of the bill, the amendment switches the DE to AEA's in administering ILO.

H-8122 to H-8096 by Winckler: AEA's Enabled to Use Fees

The amendment clarifies that the AEA's would be able to use the fees charged to administer the program, including but not limited to, technical assistance, professional development for teachers, and technology platform hosting.

H-8078 by Mascher: Capacity

The amendment addresses the capacity issue. Under the bill, a home school student is allowed to take slots for classes under ILO even if their local district of residence offers the class. Under the amendment, a home school student is allowed to take ILO courses if there is current capacity for them to do so. This avoids them bumping another student in the state when a home school student has the option to dual enroll at the district of residence.

H-8079 by Mascher: Include Other Agencies

Current law requires ILO to utilize various content repositories including those maintained by the AEA's and Iowa Public Television. The amendment adds to that list, community colleges, private colleges, Regent institutions, and the Department of Cultural Affairs.

H-8130 by Winckler: AEA Clearing House

Adds that the AEA's will establish a clearing house, in consultation with the Community Colleges, to identify and distribute information to the public regarding on-line learning options for high school students.

H-8131 by Mascher: Lab Requirement Requires Training

Under the amendment, if the ILO course to the home school student requires lab work, ILO is required to provide the parent or guardian training on the laboratory equipment before the student may take a course.

H-8080 by Mascher: Final Test at the District of Residence

The amendment adds the requirement that once a home school student completes their ILO course, they must be evaluated by the school district of residence using an assessment approved by DE for the subject area in which the student completed the course work in.

H-8129 by R. Smith: Home Visit Required

The amendment requires that the Department of Human Services conduct a home visit at the home of the student receiving private instruction.

H-XXXX to H-8129 by R. Smith: Clarifies when the Home Visit Occurs

The amendment to the amendment clarifies that the home visit would occur while the home schooler is taking the ILO course.

H-8077 by Mascher: Fees to not Exceed the Budgeted Cost of Administration

Current law states that the fees collected are to administer ILO. The bill then strikes the portion of the law that requires the fees are to be established so they will not exceed the budgeted cost of administration, and strikes language related to previous appropriation that is no longer valid. The amendment puts back in the requirement that the fees are to be established so they will not exceed the budgeted cost of administration. It maintains the strike of the previous appropriation that is no longer valid.

H-8076 by Hunter: Home School Safety Check

The amendment adds that the parent or guardian of a Home school student must provide the district of residence a report, in a manner prescribed by the school district, by September 1 of the year which their student will be home schooled. It will state the name and the age of the student, and the period of time that the student will be home schooled. It also requires an outline of the course. The parent or guardian is required to ensure either that the student is evaluated annually to determine adequate progress, or ensure the results of annual evaluation are reported to the school district.

The main purpose of the reporting requirement under the amendment, is to identify the location of the home school student for a health and safety check. Currently, under Iowa's Home school law, there is an option that allows a home school student to not report, not to dual enroll, or not to seek assistance under the Home School Assistance Program (HSAP). It is not known if these students are seen by anyone but their parent or guardian, which can protect child abusers such as in the Natalie Finn or Sabrina Ray cases, who were adopted out of foster care and home-schooled.

Under the amendment, the school district is required to make quarterly health and safety visits where the students are located. The health and safety visit will occur at the home of the student. If permission to enter the home is not granted, the juvenile court or district court, upon showing just cause, may authorize the health and safety visit. To carry this out, a school district may designate a staff person to carry out this operation. They may also coordinate with the Department of Human Services (DHS), including local, county service area officers. DE, in collaboration with DHS is required to provide districts guidelines for implementation.

H-8120 by Salmon: Workgroup AEA's to Study Access On-line Education

Like H-8113 by Winckler, but it is an addition to the bill, not a strike after. The amendment adds that the AEA's will convene a work group in coordination with the Community Colleges, to identify ways that students may access on-line education and form partnerships with existing providers. Findings will be provided to the Legislature, school districts, nonpublic schools and a leading advocate organization of competent private instruction by Oct. 15, 2018. The amendment takes effect upon enactment.

H-XXXX to H-8113 by Mascher: Adds Private Colleges and Regents

The amendment to the amendment adds to the collaboration, Iowa private colleges and the Regent institutions.

H-XXXX to H-8113 by Winckler: Notice of On-line Learning Options

The amendment to the amendment adds that DE is required to provide the home school student enrolled in an ILO class notice of other available options of on-line coursework, including but not limited to on-line classes at the district of residence, the Home School Assistance Program (HSAP), dual enrollment at the local district level, AEA options such as blended learning, as well as options through the community college such as district to community college sharing, concurrent enrollment programs and independent study.