



IOWA HOUSE DEMOCRATS

BILL SUMMARY

Multiple Siblings Assigned to Classrooms

HF 598

Status of Bill: On House Calendar

Committee: Education (12-11)

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Lead Democrat: James

Floor Manager: Wheeler

Background

Currently a school board is required to determine the number of schools within their district, how they will be divided into wards or other divisions and determine the particular school each child will attend. How they determine this, including which class multiple siblings from the same family will attend, is purely a local control issue. Certainly a school will listen to parents concerns on placement, but right now it is up to the school personnel to determine placement of multiple siblings. Many times, educators have concerns over discipline issues and how that will affect the class as a whole when it comes to classroom placements of multiple siblings. Multiple siblings could be twins, triplets or higher multiple siblings, or foster kids or blended family children will be placed.

Bill Summary

Under HF 598, prior to assigning siblings deemed to be the same grade level academically who are enrolled in grades K-5, school administrators are required to consult with, and “give deference to,” the parents or guardians of the siblings, to determine whether the siblings will be assigned to the same classroom. Used in legal terms, “to give deference to” would mean to yield to a person’s opinion. In this case, school administrators would be required to yield to the opinion of the parent or guardian as to if their multiple siblings will be placed in the same classroom or not. This deference only applies to parents with multiple siblings in a classroom, grades K-5, and not for parents or guardians of a single child in a classroom.

Epley, David [LEGIS]\G:\Caucus Staff\depley\19 Session\Education\Bill Summaries\HF 598_3-13_Multiple Siblings in Classroom.docx\March 12, 2019\8:38 AM