Bill would restrict use of gender-neutral terms in certain world language classes

By Kathie Obradovich Iowa Capital Dispatch

Republicans on an Iowa House panel voted to move

forward with a bill that would restrict instruction of gender-neutral language by world language teachers in grades 9-12.

House File 2060 would prohibit the introduction of gender-neutral terms in public and private-school classes teaching a language

"that utilizes a grammatical gender system." A House subcommittee advanced the bill Monday with two votes

Rep. Bill Gustoff, R-Des Moines, said he proposed the bill after being contacted by two teachers who "were being told to gender neutralize how they teach foreign languages that are, by nature, gender infused."

One of the teachers was facing disciplinary action and the other was "going to quit her job" over the requirement, Gustoff said.

Some languages commonly taught in K-12 schools, including Spanish and French, traditionally assign genders to nouns. For example, "house," which in Spanish is "la casa," is feminine and car, or "el auto," is masculine. Some nouns referring to people are assigned genders depending on the gender of the person: "El hermano" means brother, "la hermana" means sister.

The bill was opposed by representatives of several state education associations and LGBTQ advocates.

A Des Moines North High School teacher and linguist, Tye Nyhus Nelson, told lawmakers that the nonbinary Spanish pronoun, "elle," is among the many vocabulary words and structures taught in class.

"Students do their best when they can be themselves alongside their fellow community members, and when each of them feels seen, heard and valued by

others," Nelson said. "Banning instruction that affirms students' identities as harmful, obfuscating the reality of (the) diverse world in which they live and that they will inherit, is counterintuitive in preparing them to be future ready."

Keenan Crow of One Iowa, an LGBTQ advocacy organization, noted that legislation passed last year allows students to change their pronouns with parental permission. "Now that we have this bill in place that requires trans and nonbinary kids to get permission slips from their parents, their parents are effectively saying, 'This is how I want you to refer to my kid.' And it doesn't get an exemption simply because of a foreign language class," Crow said.

The following Audubon Junior High and High School students have qualified for the 2023-2024 first semester Honor Roll

7th Grade Kelsey Bonnesen Mason Brand * Vincent Carter * Tatum Christensen Yarismary Correa-Huerta Tyler Ellingson 3 Noah Fastert * Dane Hansen * Karsen Juelsgaard * Kamdan King Conner Klever Autumn Klocke Nicholas Olcott * Brody Otten Celina Owens Jace Palmer 7

Carter Rugaard * Layne Slater Matthew Smith Camden Sporrer * Bentlev Strasser * Mia Wittrock 8th Grade Paxton Beane

Brianna Belnap Karli Burger Braeden Christensen * Katelyn Dreher * Leyton Elmquist Kye Gleason Halo Goetz Collin Hansen Karleigh Henkle Garrett Heuton Hudson Hocker Olivia Inman Vivian Jackson Jennifer Jensen Emilie Joens Mason Kasperbauer *

Michael Neal Kaleb Nelson * Gregory Olcott Bryli Petersen * Whitney Petersen * Lucy Stanerson Jordyn Swagel

Aiden Kjergaard *

Sage Miller

Landen Yager Mackayla Zuniga

9th Grade Marie Brand Emma Griffith Mia Gust * Sophia Hansen Aubrey Hartl Alexander Henkle Gabriella Hunnicutt * Maya King Havden Larsen Jasmine Lopez Huerta Lane Meyer Clayton VanAernam

Garret Vorm

10th Grade Brylie Andersen * Jacob Barclay Kadence Brannan-Sporrer Daytona Burr Henry Burr Olivia Carter Austin Christensen * Lane Elmquist * Lola Fernandez Evelyn Gomez Kari Graeve Rvan Hermansen * Sydney Johnson * Lena-Elaine Johnson-Rieman * Madeline Kasperbauer Cameron Klever Peterson Lebeck Solei Lopez Huerta Sullivan McClain Harlow Miller Grace Nelsen Maecy Rudy Evelyn Rynearson Brody Schultes *

11th Grade

Brayden Sporrer

Walter Vetter

Brody Weber

Logan Thygesen *

Corbin Chambers Katilyn Dau Oliver Deist 3 Emily Foran Mari Gleason * Payton Gust Colton Hansen 8 Colin Hartl Austin Heuss Kayla Hogue Isaac Jackson Wyatt Jessen Evan Joens Kalee Juelsgaard Jacqueline Lopez Hernandez * Adam Obrecht Aaron Olsen * Kylie Petersen Jack Stanerson Mason Steckler Nathaniel Terrell Daniel Tessman Alissa Testroet 3

Emma Brand

12th Grade Geralyn Anderson * Michelle Brooks * Connor Christensen Eli Deist * Genavieve Finley Aidan Griffith * Addesyn Hocker * Ezekiel Konkler Kerrigan Larsen 3 Sheridan Meese * Edward Miller * Mattie Nielsen * Alexis Obermeier * Jordan Porsch Clayton Rugaard Omar Sallak Logan Schmidt * Myrna Schneider Ava Slater *

Morgan Smith *

Samantha Warnaca *

Carson Wessel Lincoln Sorter Bryce Steadman Stefi Beisswenger *

Legal Notice

PRELIMINARY PUBLIC NOTICE -IMPACTS TO FLOODPLAINS City of Exira, Iowa - Wastewater System Improvements

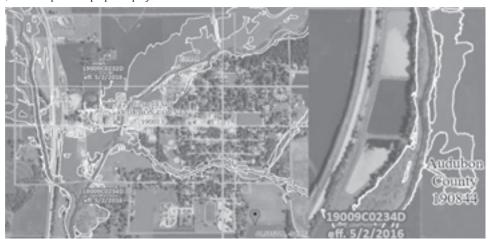
The City Of Exira, located in Audubon County, Iowa intends to seek financial assistance from USDA, Rural Development, Rural Utilities Service for costs of future improvements to its wastewater system.

The improvements to the wastewater system include modifications to the existing three cell lagoon system, installing a NitrOx reactor plus an UV treatment process. A new 72-inch manhole for meters, piping, and valves that will be constructed adjacent an existing lift station. The improvements also include the purchase and installation of a new generator, a new control panel, and other piping improvements. A portion of these improvements will be constructed in a floodplain. All improvements to be located in the floodplain will be designed and constructed to be protected from 100-year and 500-year flood hazards.

If implemented, in accordance with Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management and USDA Departmental Regulation 9500-3, Land Use Policy, the purpose of this notice is to inform the public of this proposed conversion or effect and request comments concerning the proposal, alternative sites or actions that would avoid these impacts, and methods that could be used to minimize these impacts.

The environmental documentation regarding this proposal is available for review at the USDA Rural Development office location at 511 W. 7th Street, Atlantic, Iowa 50022. For questions regarding this proposal, contact Dee Fischer, Area Specialist, 712-254-4360 or dee.fischer@usda.gov.

Any person interested in commenting on this proposal should submit comments to the address above by February 8, 2024. Maps of the proposed project area:



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