



Weekly Legislative Update

Week 16: April 27, 2026

Subject: HF 2754 Passes the Senate – Now to the Governor

The big news is simple: HF 2754 passed the Iowa Senate on Monday, April 27, on a 29-17 vote. The bill now goes to Governor Reynolds for her signature. All four homeschool provisions (IPI deregulation, diploma equivalency, parental verification authority, and CPI Form A simplification) survived the Senate floor intact. This is a significant win for Iowa homeschool families, and I want to take a few minutes to explain how we got here and what the final steps look like.

What Happened Over the Weekend

Senate floor votes don't just happen. Before a bill comes up for debate, there is almost always behind-the-scenes work to make sure the floor manager and key supporters are prepared for whatever comes at them. This past Sunday afternoon and evening, I had conversations with several legislators to walk through the homeschool provisions in HF 2754, explain the legal framework, and help them anticipate the arguments they might hear in opposition. That kind of preparation matters. When Senator Quirmbach offered an amendment Monday to strip the homeschool language from the bill entirely, Senator Green and others were ready. The amendment failed 30-16. Five other Democratic amendments designed to weaken various parts of the bill also failed, all on the same 30-16 vote. The floor manager knew the bill, knew the provisions, and knew how to defend them. That does not happen by accident.

How Senate Floor Debate Works

For homeschooling families who want to understand what actually happened Monday, here is a quick primer. When a bill reaches the Senate floor, the floor manager (in this case, Senator Jesse Green) presents the bill and guides it through debate. Any senator can offer an amendment, which is then debated and voted on before the final vote on the bill itself. Amendments require only a simple majority to pass, which is why they are often the opposition's preferred tool. If an amendment stripping a key provision had passed, the bill would have gone back to the House in a changed form, triggering either a concurrence vote or a conference committee -- both of which would have introduced delay and risk.

That is why the 30-16 votes on all six amendments matter. Each one was a clean rejection. The Senate then passed the bill itself 29-17, with one Republican, Senator Sweeney, joining Democrats in opposition.

Twenty-nine senators voted yes. The homeschool provisions were never in serious danger once the bill reached the floor, but the opposition did try. It is worth knowing that.

What the Bill Actually Does

Here is a plain-language summary of what Iowa homeschool families gain when the Governor signs HF 2754.

Independent Private Instruction families currently face two restrictions that have limited the growth of small homeschool cooperatives, cottage schools, and microschools: a cap of four unrelated students and a prohibition on charging tuition. HF 2754 removes both. Parents who want to teach a handful of neighborhood children, or who want to formalize a small learning community, will be able to do so without those restrictions triggering public school oversight. This is the most significant structural change to IPI since the option was created in 2013.

The diploma equivalency provision addresses a practical problem Iowa homeschool graduates have encountered for years. HF 2754 establishes in statute that a diploma, transcript, or credential issued under CPI or IPI is legally sufficient proof of high school completion. State agencies, community colleges, the Board of Regents institutions, and accredited private colleges are prohibited from treating a homeschool diploma as less than its equivalent. The provision is retroactive, meaning graduates who already hold CPI or IPI credentials benefit immediately.

The parental verification authority provision gives parents a clear statutory basis to execute any documents (e.g., enrollment forms, placement verifications, grade certifications) required to confirm their child's educational status. This closes a gap that has occasionally created friction when families interface with institutions that were uncertain whether a parent had the legal standing to complete such documents on their child's behalf.

Finally, the CPI Form A simplification removes the requirement that first-time filers include immunization records and blood lead test documentation with their Form A. This was a paperwork burden that had no corresponding benefit for families and no connection to educational outcomes. It is gone.

What Happens Next

The Governor has three options when a bill reaches her desk. She can sign it, veto it, or take no action. If she receives the bill while the Legislature is still in session, she has three calendar days to act; if she receives it in the final three days of the session, she has 30 days. Governor Reynolds issued a statement Monday praising the passage of HF 2754. There is no indication of any veto risk. The bill takes effect immediately upon her signature.

There is no action needed from Iowa homeschooling families right now. When the Governor signs, we will send a brief notice. Until then, we wait. And that is a comfortable place to be.

For Iowa homeschool freedom,

Jeremy Vos

Director of Advocacy, Homeschool Iowa

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