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HOUSE REPUBLICAN STAFF ANALYSIS

Bill: House File 212
Committee: Education
Bill Manager: Rep. Jeremy Taylor
Date: March 7, 2011
Staff: Jason Chapman (1-3015)

School Dress Code Policies

(Formerly HF 77) Current statute as it relates to dress code policies for school districts allows districts to proscribe certain aspects of students dress, meaning prohibit particular clothing items. This allows school districts to tell students what they can't wear. It does not allow them to prescribe a standard of dress, or tell students what they must wear. Waterloo school districts last summer tried to prescribe dress code policies for their schools and a challenge against the policy was upheld by a Department of Education administrative law judge. This bill would allow school districts to prescribe a standard of dress.

Summary of Action

The Committee on Education **PASSED** HF 77 on February 2, 2011, by a vote of 20-2.

Section by Section Analysis

Section 1 Removes intent language stating that students and administrators have a right to be safe and secure at school and that gang apparel creates a negative learning environment.

Section 2 Changes statute by saying that a school district can *prescribe* a standard dress and not just *proscribe*. The imposition of limits on student dress, however, shall not limit a student's constitutional rights and privileges. This change can be made if the board feels that such a change would improve the health, safety, or positive educational environment.
