

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This proposal to establish school district efficiency reviews is modeled after a proposal by Virginia's Governor Warner. Virginia's proposal consists of two components: 1) directing auditors and management specialists from the state department of planning and budget to review individual school systems in order to realize greater efficiencies and identify good practices that can be shared with other systems; and 2) conducting a statewide performance review to inform parents, policymakers, and taxpayers about schools' performance. This bill directs the management analysis division in the Minnesota department of administration, at the written request of a school superintendent or local school board, and in consultation with the education commissioner, to use state funds to review a school district's central operations, excluding educational services, in order to identify exemplary practices and make recommendations for improved services and greater efficiencies. Review findings and recommendation are advisory only.

Section

- 1 School district efficiency reviews.** (a) Directs the management analysis division in the Minnesota department of administration, at the written request of a school superintendent or local school board and using state funds appropriated for this purpose, to review a school district's central operations in consultation with the education commissioner. Requires the review to at least: examine noninstructional expenditures; examine overhead costs, procurement practices, facilities use and management, financial management, transportation policies, technology planning and energy management; and identify ways to improve

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operational efficiencies and reduce costs. Allows the management analysis division to review additional areas. Precludes the review from examining educational services. Requires state and local entities to cooperate with and assist the management analysis division.

(b) Directs the management analysis division to conduct and determine the sequence, timing and duration of the review within two years of receiving a request. Encourages the management analysis division to conduct at least three reviews annually.

(c) Directs the management analysis division to provide a written report of the findings, including exemplary practices and recommendations for improved services and greater efficiencies. Declares that all recommendations are advisory only and that a school district may adopt or reject the recommendations in whole or in part.

(d) Directs the management analysis division, in cooperation with the education commissioner, to make public all final documents and prohibits the disclosure of identifiable information about individual school board members.

(e) Prohibits the state from seeking reimbursement from any local entity for any efficiency review-related costs.

Makes this section effective July 1, 2004.