

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill authorizes consortia of at least three rural school districts to join together to form a Commonwealth District and makes grants of up to \$100,000 per consortium to encourage shared administrative and program services.

Section

- 1** **Commonwealth District grants.** Creates a grant program called the Commonwealth District grants program to encourage Independent School Districts to share administrative and program services. Defines a Commonwealth District as a consortium of at least three rural Independent School Districts and allows the consortium to apply for a grant of up to \$100,000. Makes the grant in fiscal year 2010 available for planning purposes. Makes subsequent grants available for implementing shared services.
- 2** **Appropriations.** Appropriates \$300,000 per year for fiscal years 2010 and 2011 from the general fund to the commissioner of education for grants under section 1.