

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 3120
Version: As introduced

DATE: March 17, 2010

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Subject: Creating efficiency plus access task forces for school districts

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Overview

This bill creates a system and structure for districts to follow to form regional task forces to evaluate ways to improve efficiency and save costs through collaborative efforts.

Section

1 Efficiency plus access task forces.

Subd. 1. Purpose. States that the purpose of the efficiency plus access task forces is to facilitate greater efficiency and reduce education costs through collaboration and cooperation across school districts and other governmental agencies while maintaining or improving the learning results for students.

Subd. 2. Required school district participation. Requires each district with an enrollment of fewer than 5,000 students to participate in an efficiency plus access task force.

Subd. 3. Optional district and other public entity participation. Encourages school districts with more than 5,000 students and other public entities to participate in the efficiency plus access task forces.

Subd. 4. Task force membership. Allows participating districts to organize the task forces using an existing regional structure such as education districts, intermediate district, or other cooperative model. Authorizes districts to request that a service cooperative assist in establishing task forces for their service area. Defines task force membership as one member appointed by each district board included in the task force and one member from each other public entity that chooses to participate. Requires each school board to develop a process within the district allowing teachers, students, parents, and the community to have access and opportunities to review and make recommendations to be brought forward to the

efficiency plus access task force.

Subd. 5. Task force reporting. Requires each task force to review and make recommendations to the participating school boards regarding: (1) administrative services; (2) instructional and learning services; and (3) cooperative arrangements for shared extracurricular activities, including having the activities become the responsibility of the community recreational program. Requires each task force to consider creating new models of schools including project-based learning schools, online learning schools in cooperation with other education districts, service cooperatives or chartered schools, new postsecondary options for high school students, new pre-K through primary grades partnerships with early childhood providers, and other models of schooling.

Subd. 6. Reporting. Requires each efficiency plus access task force to report to the commissioner of education by October 15, 2010, about the structure and membership of each task force. Requires the commissioner to assign school districts that have not voluntarily joined efficiency plus access task forces to a task force. Requires task forces to complete its recommendations and submit a report to the member school boards and the commissioner by December 1, 2011. Requires the commissioner to review each report by January 15, 2012. Requires task forces to submit final reports to the commissioner by March 15, 2012. Requires the commissioner to summarize the results of the final task force reports and report those results to the legislature by June 30, 2012.

- 2 Appropriations.** Appropriates an unspecified amount of money from the general fund to the commissioner of education in fiscal year 2011 for a contract with an independent entity to assist school districts with efficiency plus access task forces.