

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 1942
Version: As introduced

DATE: March 8, 2014

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Subject: Creating the cultural and ethnic communities leadership council in the Department of Education

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Overview

Establishes a cultural and ethnic communities leadership council composed of 15 to 25 members to advise the commissioner of education on reducing educational disparities affecting racial and ethnic student groups.

Section

1 Cultural and ethnic communities leadership council.

Subd. 1. Establishment; purpose. Establishes the cultural and ethnic communities leadership council to advise the education commissioner on reducing educational disparities affecting racial and ethnic groups.

Subd. 2. Members. (a) Requires between 15 and 25 council members appointed by the commissioner in consultation with school districts, affected communities, and participating students and their parents. Directs the commissioner, in consultation with committee chairs and school district, tribal, and cultural communities and program participants, to develop membership guidelines, working definitions, and council duties related to reducing racial and ethnic disparities.

(b) Requires council members to represent various diverse stakeholders, education department employees, legislative committee chairs, and any other group identified by the commissioner.

(c) Requires council members to serve a one or two-year term. Requires the commissioner to appoint a council chair.

Section

(d) Precludes council members from receiving compensation.

Subd. 3. Duties of the commissioner. (a) Directs the commissioner, commensurate with the purpose of this section, to: maintain the council; supervise and coordinate policies; identify rules and statutes that require revisions; investigate and recommend cost effective education service models and strategies; review and adjust policies; and submit legislation to reduce disparities and improve outcomes.

(b) Directs the commissioner to consult with and receive the recommendations of the council.

Subd. 4. Duties of council. Directs the council, commensurate with the purpose of this section, to: recommend policies for review; identify issues; engage in learning; raise awareness; provide assistance and support to school districts, schools, and other service providers; assist in promoting appropriate, accessible, and cost effective services and policies; provide training and outreach; form work groups to carry out council duties; and promote information sharing.

Subd. 5. Duties of council members. Directs council members, commensurate with the purpose of this section, to: attend and participate in meetings; communicate with constituencies; identify and communicate issues and risks; collaborate on efforts to reduce disparities; maintain progress reports on the education department Web site; and participate in council activities.

Subd. 6. Expiration. Causes the council to not expire unless directed by the commissioner.