

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Authors: Wills and others

Subject: Implementing portions of the Legislative Auditor's 2013 special education report

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Overview

Proposes to implement recommendations contained in the Legislative Auditor's 2013 special education report, including: providing for an independent analysis of the economic and educational effects of conforming Minnesota's special education laws to minimum federal requirements; identifying ways to help special education teachers effectively comply with legal requirements related to providing special education and related services; identifying strategies to reduce the time spent completing paperwork, evaluating whether the strategies are cost effective, and determining whether other districts and schools can also use these strategies; recommending revisions to state special education rules and repealing obsolete rules to make the rules conform to state special education statutes; and satisfying paperwork and time line requirements of federal special education law only.

Section

1 Special education evaluation.

Subd. 1. Independent analysis of proposed changes to state special education laws. Directs the commissioner of education to solicit a request for proposal to analyze the economic and educational effects of conforming Minnesota's special education laws to minimum federal requirements. Requires the report to be structured to help the legislature balance student outcomes with any gains in time or cost efficiencies. Directs the commissioner to submit the analysis to the legislature by February 15, 2016.

Section

Subd. 2. Special education teachers' compliance with federal requirements.

Directs the education department to identify ways to help special education teachers make informed decisions about effectively complying with legal requirements related to providing special education and related services. Directs the department to work collaboratively with school and district staff and representatives of affected organizations to identify obstacles to and solutions for complying with special education laws. Directs the department to work with schools and districts to provide staff development training to comply with special education law and meet the educational needs and improve the educational progress of students with disabilities.

Subd. 3. Efficiencies to reduce paperwork. Directs the education department, in collaboration with special education teachers and administrators in schools and districts to identify strategies to reduce the time spent completing paperwork, evaluate whether the strategies are cost effective, and determine whether other districts and schools can also use these strategies. Directs the department to disseminate successful strategies to other districts and schools.

Subd. 4. Recommended rule changes to conform to Minnesota Statutes. Directs the education commissioner to submit a written report to the legislature by February 1, 2016, recommending revisions to state special education rules and repealing obsolete rules to make the rules conform to state special education statutes. Directs the commissioner to consult with legislators in preparing the report.

Subd. 5. Special education; paperwork; time lines. (a) Allows school districts to satisfy paperwork requirements of federal special education law only.
(b) Allows school districts to satisfy time line requirements established in federal special education law.