

1 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

2 FOR

3 Senate Bill No. 344

4 (By Senator Plymale)

5 _____
6 [Originating in the Committee on Education;
7 reported March 1, 2013.]
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11 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by
12 adding thereto a new section, designated §18-2-26a, relating
13 to regional meetings among certain officials of county boards
14 of education; establishing purposes and limitation; requiring
15 notice; setting forth the responsibilities of county and state
16 education officials; soliciting input from organizations
17 having an interest in education; requiring certain reports;
18 and providing a process for approval of training.

19 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

20 That the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended
21 by adding thereto a new section, designated §18-2-26a, to read as
22 follows:

23 **ARTICLE 2. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.**

24 **§18-2-26a. Regional meetings; attendance; training; reports.**

25 (a) During the months of July and August, 2013, and thereafter
26 biennially within two months following the organizational meetings

1 of county boards required by section one-c, article five of this
2 chapter, all county superintendents of schools and members of
3 county boards belonging to the same regional educational service
4 agency shall meet together to identify administrative, coordinating
5 and other county-level services and functions that may be shared
6 between or among the county boards, especially when resignations,
7 retirements, staffing realignments or similar events may occur.
8 The meeting shall be a special meeting of each participating county
9 board, to be called pursuant to section four, article five of this
10 chapter solely for the purposes set forth in this section.

11 (b) As soon as each meeting is scheduled, the West Virginia
12 School Board Association shall notify the state superintendent in
13 writing of the time, place and date of the meeting. The
14 association shall conduct the meetings and for that purpose may
15 consult with the regional educational service agencies. The format
16 of the meetings shall be approved by the state board in advance.

17 (c) Prior to seeking the approval of the state board for the
18 format of the meetings, the association shall solicit input from
19 statewide organizations that have an interest in public education,
20 including organizations representing the interests of parents,
21 business and industry, public school administrators, teachers and
22 service personnel.

23 (d) By October 1 following the meetings required by this
24 section, the West Virginia School Board Association shall provide
25 a report of the meetings to the state board and the Legislative
26 Oversight Commission on Education Accountability. The report shall

1 include, but is not limited to, the following items:

2 (1) Identification of the administrative, coordinating and
3 other county-level services and functions that may be shared
4 between or among the county boards;

5 (2) An analysis of the advantages and disadvantages of sharing
6 services in each instance; and

7 (3) A process for implementing recommended changes.

8 (e) Subject to state board approval, the county board member
9 training standards review committee established by section one-a,
10 article five of this chapter may determine that the attendance of
11 a county board member at the meeting required by subsection (a) of
12 this section shall be approved as training related to boardsmanship
13 and governance effectiveness.

14 (f) Nothing in this section requires the elimination or
15 consolidation of county school districts.