

Senate Bill No. 344

(By Senator Plymale)

[Introduced February 21, 2013; referred to the Committee on
Education.]

10 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by
11 adding thereto a new section, designated §18-2-26a, relating
12 to requiring meetings among certain officials of county boards
13 of education belonging to the same regional educational
14 service agency; establishing what those meetings are to
15 accomplish; requiring notice; setting forth the
16 responsibilities of county and state education officials;
17 permitting input from organizations having an interest in
18 education; requiring reports; approving training; and
19 providing a limitation.

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

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

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

1 **§18-2-26a. Meetings of multicounty regional educational service**
2 **agencies; attendance; training; reports.**

3 (a) During the months of July and August, 2013, and thereafter
4 biennially within two months following the organizational meetings
5 of county boards required by section one-c, article five of this
6 chapter, all county superintendents of schools and county boards
7 belonging to the same regional educational service agency shall
8 meet together to identify administrative, coordinating and other
9 county level services and functions that might be shared between or
10 among the county boards, especially when resignations, retirements,
11 staffing realignments or similar events might occur. The meeting
12 shall be a special meeting of each participating county board, to
13 be called pursuant to section four, article five of this chapter
14 solely for the purposes set forth in this subsection.

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

21 (c) Prior to seeking the approval by the state board for the
22 format of the meetings, the association shall invite input from
23 statewide organizations that have an interest in public education,
24 including organizations representing the interests of parents,

1 business and industry, public school administrators, teachers and
2 service personnel.

3 (d) By the first day of October following the meetings
4 required by this section, the West Virginia School Board
5 Association shall present and submit a report of the meetings to
6 the state board and the Legislative Oversight Commission on
7 Education Accountability. The report shall identify the
8 administrative, coordinating and other county level services and
9 functions that might be shared between or among the county boards,
10 and the advantages and disadvantages of doing so, together with
11 recommendations for implementation.

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

18 (f) This section may not be construed as requiring the
19 elimination or consolidation of county school districts.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to requiring meetings among certain officials of county boards of education belonging to the same regional educational service agency. The bill establishes what those meetings are to accomplish. The bill sets forth the responsibilities of county and state education officials. The bill requires notice. The bill permits input from organizations having

an interest in education. The bill requires reports and approves training. The bill also provides a limitation.

This section is new; therefore, strike-throughs and underscoring have been omitted.