



2009 SENATE BILL 599

March 8, 2010 – Introduced by Senators VINEHOUT, HOLPERIN, KREITLOW and OLSEN, cosponsored by Representatives CLARK, HRAYCHUCK, POPE-ROBERTS, HILGENBERG, DEXTER, MILROY, ZIGMUNT, GARTHWAITE, SMITH, MOLEPSKE JR., MURSAU and M. WILLIAMS. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 **AN ACT to amend** 20.255 (2) (bs); **to create** 117.40 (5) of the statutes; and **to**
2 **affect** 2007 Wisconsin Act 20, section 9137 (3k); **relating to:** grants to school
3 districts for efficiency and consolidation feasibility studies, granting
4 rule-making authority, and making an appropriation.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill authorizes the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to award grants of up to \$10,000 to consortia of two or more school districts to study ways of improving efficiency and reducing costs by working cooperatively or to study the feasibility of consolidating the school districts. A consortium awarded a grant to study ways of improving efficiency must provide an amount equal to 20 percent of the amount of the grant. The bill prohibits DPI from awarding more than one grant to the same consortium in the same school year.

For further information see the *state and local* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

5 **SECTION 1.** 20.255 (2) (bs) of the statutes is amended to read:

SENATE BILL 599**SECTION 1**

1 20.255 (2) (bs) *School district efficiency and consolidation grants*. The amounts
2 in the schedule for grants for school district efficiency and consolidation feasibility
3 studies under ~~2007 Wisconsin Act 20, section 9137 (3k)~~. ~~No funds may be~~
4 ~~encumbered from this appropriation after June 30, 2009 s. 117.40.~~

5 **SECTION 2.** 117.40 (5) of the statutes is created to read:

6 117.40 (5) The department shall promulgate rules to implement and
7 administer this section.

8 **SECTION 3.** 2007 Wisconsin Act 20, section 9137 (3k) is renumbered 117.40 of
9 the statutes and amended to read:

10 **117.40 Grants for school district efficiency and consolidation studies.**

11 (1) A consortium of 2 or more school districts may apply to the department of public
12 instruction for a grant to conduct a school district consolidation feasibility study
13 ways for the school districts to improve efficiency and reduce costs by working
14 cooperatively or to study the feasibility of consolidating the school districts. The
15 consortium shall submit a plan identifying the school districts engaged in the study,
16 the issues the study will address, and how the grant funds will be expended. A school
17 district may not be a member of more than one consortium. The department shall
18 ensure that a consortium awarded a grant to study ways to improve efficiency and
19 reduce costs allocates an amount to the study equal to 20 percent of the amount of
20 the grant.

21 (2) ~~In the 2008-09 school year, the~~ The department of public instruction shall
22 award grants to consortia from the appropriation under ~~section s.~~ s. 20.255 (2) (bs) of
23 ~~the statutes, as created by this act~~. The department may not award more than
24 \$10,000 to any consortium in the same school year nor award more than one grant
25 to any consortium in the same school year.

