March 7, 2013 – Introduced by Representatives SHANKLAND, VRUWINK, KRUG, SPIROS, BARCA, BERNARD SCHABER, MILROY, WACHS, SMITH, OHNSTAD, WRIGHT and TITTL, cosponsored by Senators LASSA, MOULTON, C. LARSON, JAUCH, VINEHOUT, CARPENTER, HANSEN and HARRIS. Referred to Committee on Government Operations and State Licensing.

AN ACT to renumber and amend 115.28 (12) (b); and to create 115.28 (12) (am)

and 115.28 (12) (b) 2. of the statutes; relating to: selection of student information system software vendors by the Department of Public Instruction.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Current law requires the state superintendent of public instruction (superintendent) to work with the Office of the Governor to establish a student information system (SIS) to be used to collect and maintain information about pupils enrolled in public schools. The superintendent may charge a fee to any person that uses the SIS.

This bill requires the state superintendent to develop request-for-proposal procedures and criteria for selecting vendors of the SIS software on a competitive basis (selected software) and, beginning in the 2014–15 school year, to select at least two preferred vendors whenever a selection of software is made. The bill permits the superintendent to charge a fee to any person that uses the selected software to participate in the SIS. The bill also permits a school district to use a software other than the selected software to participate in the SIS, provided the school district’s student information system is compatible with the SIS on certain measures, including the following: 1) the ability to assign a unique student identification number to each student enrolled in the district; 2) the ability to satisfy current and future state and federal reporting requirements and deadlines; and 3) the ability to transfer electronic student transcripts, electronic data, and electronic records to the
Department of Public Instruction in the same manner and on the same schedule as school districts using the selected software.

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

SECTION 1. 115.28 (12) (am) of the statutes is created to read:

115.28 (12) (am) Develop request-for-proposal procedures and criteria for selecting vendors of computer software used to compile and manage data for integrating into the system established under par. (a). The criteria shall require the department to select vendors on a competitive basis. Beginning with the selection of vendors for the 2014-15 school year, whenever a selection is made under this paragraph, the department shall select at least 2 preferred vendors to provide the software, and selection shall be made in accordance with the procedures established under this paragraph.

SECTION 2. 115.28 (12) (b) of the statutes is renumbered 115.28 (12) (b) 1. and amended to read:

115.28 (12) (b) 1. Ensure that within 5 years of the establishment of the system under par. (a), every school district is participating in the system. The state superintendent may promulgate rules authorizing the department to charge a fee to any person that uses the software selected under par. (am) to participate in the system. All fees shall be credited to the appropriation account under s. 20.255 (1) (jm).

SECTION 3. 115.28 (12) (b) 2. of the statutes is created to read:

115.28 (12) (b) 2. A school district that satisfies all of the following is not required to use the software selected under par. (am), or pay a fee, to participate in the system established under par. (a):
a. The school district uses a student information system on the effective date of this subd. 2. a. .... [LRB inserts date], that is compatible with the system established under par. (a) on the measures identified in this subdivision and does not pay a vendor to use that student information system.

b. The school district can use the student information system described in subd. 2. a. to satisfy current and future state and federal reporting requirements and deadlines.

c. The student information system described in subd. 2. a. immediately assigns a unique student identification number to each student enrolled in the district upon enrollment.

d. The school district transfers electronic student transcripts to and from the student information system described in subd. 2. a. each night.

e. The school district can provide electronic data transfers, for all data fields required by the department, from the student information system described in subd. 2. a. in the same manner and on the same schedule as school districts using the software selected under par. (am).

f. The school district can create electronic record transfers to upload data into a data warehouse maintained by the department in the same manner and on the same schedule as school districts using the software selected under par. (am).