AN ACT to create 20.255 (2) (bp) and 118.50 (5m) of the statutes; relating to: a whole grade sharing categorical aid for school boards and making an appropriation.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill creates a categorical aid for school boards that enter into a whole grade sharing agreement and adopt a resolution to consider school district consolidation. Under the bill, the Department of Public Instruction pays an eligible school board an amount equal to $150 per pupil enrolled in a grade included in the whole grade sharing agreement. A school board may not receive this aid for more than five school years.

Under current law, two or more school boards may enter into a whole grade sharing agreement, under which all or a substantial portion of the pupils enrolled in a specified grade in the participating school districts attend the specified grade in one of the participating school districts.

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:

SECTION 1. 20.005 (3) (schedule) of the statutes: at the appropriate place, insert the following amounts for the purposes indicated:
20.255 Public instruction, department of

(2) AIDS FOR LOCAL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

(bp) Aid for whole grade sharing agreements

SECTION 2. 20.255 (2) (bp) of the statutes is created to read:

20.255 (2) (bp) Aid for whole grade sharing agreements. The amounts in the schedule for payments under s. 118.50 (5m).

SECTION 3. 118.50 (5m) of the statutes is created to read:

118.50 (5m) STATE AID. (a) A school board is eligible for aid under sub. (b) if the school board does all of the following:

1. Enters into a whole grade sharing agreement.

2. Adopts a resolution declaring that it will consider consolidation under s. 117.08 or 117.09.

(b) Beginning in the 2019-20 school year and subject to par. (c), the department shall pay an eligible school board an amount equal to $150 multiplied by the number of pupils who are enrolled in the school district in a grade level that is subject to the whole grade sharing agreement.

(c) 1. If the appropriation under s. 20.255 (2) (bp) is insufficient to pay the full amount under this subsection, the department shall prorate the payments among the eligible school boards.

2. The department may not make payments to a school board under par. (b) for more than 5 school years of a whole grade sharing agreement.

SECTION 4. Effective date.
1 (1) This act takes effect on the day after publication, or on the 2nd day after
2 publication of the 2019 biennial budget act, whichever is later.
3 (END)