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2005 ASSEMBLY BILL 418

May 12, 2005 - Introduced by Representative Mursau. Referred to Joint Committee on Finance.

AN ACT *to create* 115.435 (2m) of the statutes; **relating to:** providing state aid to certain large-area, declining enrollment school districts and granting rule-making authority.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, a school district with an area of at least 200 square miles and an enrollment of fewer than 500 pupils, and in which at least 80 percent of the real property is exempt from taxation, is taxed as forest cropland, or is tribal land, is eligible for supplemental state aid of \$350 per enrolled pupil.

This bill provides that, if in any fiscal year the amount appropriated for supplemental aid is not fully expended, the balance will be used to provide a payment of \$350 per enrolled pupil to any school district that is at least 475 square miles in area and that experienced a decline in enrollment of more than 12 percent between the 2000–01 school year and the 2003–04 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:

Section 1. 115.435 (2m) of the statutes is created to read:

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- 115.435 (2m) (a) If in any fiscal year there is a balance in the appropriation under s. 20.255 (2) (ad) after all of the payments are made under sub. (2), the department shall use the balance to pay each school district that satisfies the following criteria an amount equal to \$350 for each pupil enrolled in the school district in the previous school year:
 - 1. The school district is at least 475 square miles in area.
- 7 2. The school district's membership used to calculate aid under s. 121.15 (4) (b) 8 in the 2000–01 and the 2003–04 school years declined more than 12 percent between 9 those school years.
 - (b) If the balance is insufficient to pay the full amount under this subsection, the funds shall be prorated among the entitled school districts.

SECTION 2. Initial applicability.

(1) This act first applies to state aid distributed in the 2005–06 school year.

14 (END)