

1 **AN ACT** *to create* 20.255 (2) (fp) and 115.406 of the statutes; **relating to:** creating a
2 grant program for school district consolidation feasibility studies, making an
3 appropriation, and creating rule-making authority.

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

JOINT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PREFATORY NOTE: This draft, prepared at the request of the Joint Legislative Council's Special Committee on Review of State School Aid Formula provides for a grant program for school district consolidation feasibility studies.

The draft is intended for discussion purposes only and is not intended to represent the only options or approaches to create a grant program for school district consolidation feasibility studies.

The draft provides, in s. 115.406 (1), that a consortium of two or more school districts may apply to the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) for a grant to conduct a school district consolidation feasibility study. It would be possible for the committee to broaden the entities eligible to request a grant. For example, cooperative service educational agencies (CESAs) or others could be included. The draft also provides that an applicant for the grant must submit a plan identifying the school districts engaged in the study, the issues the study will address, and how the grant funds will be allocated. It would be possible for the committee to add other requirements for the grant application if so desired.

The draft creates appropriation language but does not provide a specific dollar amount in the schedule for the proposed grants.

The draft contains a provision providing the potential to limit an award to a specified amount to an applicant in a fiscal year. This provision could be retained with a specified figure or could, in the alternative be deleted from the draft.

The draft also provides an optional provision in s. 115.406 (3) (shown in brackets) to require DPI to give priority to applications that demonstrate prior district attempts to address underlying issues associated with management and operation of the district and the district's programs. This provision could be modified to provide a different criteria for granting priority or could be deleted from the draft altogether.

The draft in s. 115.406 (4) would require the results of a study to be provided to DPI. Finally, the draft provides in s. 115.406 (5) that DPI promulgate rules to implement and administer this section. These are both optional provisions.

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

	2007-08	2008-09
Public Instruction, department of		
(2) EDUCATIONAL AIDS		
(fp) Grant program for school consolidation feasibility studies	GPR A	-0- -0-

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

20.255 (2) (fp) *Grant program for school district consolidation feasibility studies.* The amounts in the schedule for the grant program for school district consolidation feasibility studies under s. 115.406.

SECTION 3. 115.406 of the statutes is created to read:

115.406 Grant program for school district consolidation feasibility studies. (1) A consortium of 2 or more school districts may apply to the department for a grant to conduct a district consolidation feasibility study. An applicant for a grant under this section shall submit a plan identifying the school districts engaged in the study, the issues the study will address and how the grant funds will be allocated.

(2) The department shall award grants from the appropriation under s. 20.255 (2) (fp). The department may not award more than \$_____ to an applicant in a fiscal year.

[(3) The department shall give priority to applications that demonstrate prior district attempts to address underlying issues associated with management and operation of the district and the district's programs.]

[(4) The results of the study shall be provided to the department.]

[(5) The department shall promulgate rules to implement and administer this section.]

(END)