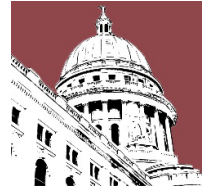


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# Wisconsin Legislative Council

## MINUTES

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### STUDY COMMITTEE ON SHARED SCHOOL DISTRICT SERVICES

300 Northeast, State Capitol  
Madison, WI  
December 13, 2022  
10:00 a.m. – 11:58 a.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Rep. Rob Brooks, Chair; Rep. Dave Considine; Sen. Janet Bewley; and Public Members Lance Bagstad, Jeffrey Dellutri, Bobbie Guyette, Ben Niehaus, and Tara Villalobos.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Sen. Daniel Feyen, Vice Chair; and Public Member Ted Neitzke.

COUNCIL STAFF PRESENT: Raine Black, Staff Attorney; Emily Hicks, Staff Attorney; and Rachel Letzing, Deputy Director.

**ATTENTION:** This was the final meeting of the Study Committee on Shared School District Services. Committee members are requested to send any corrections regarding minutes to the Legislative Council staff. After the incorporation of any corrections, these minutes will be considered approved by the committee.

### CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Brooks called the meeting to order and determined that a quorum was present.

### APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 30, 2022 MEETING

Mr. Niehaus requested that the minutes of the November 30, 2022 meeting be corrected to show that Ms. Villalobos, not Vice Chair Feyen, moved for passage of the minutes from the October 26, 2022 meeting.

*Mr. Bagstad moved, seconded by Chair Brooks, that the above correction be accepted, and that the minutes from the November 30, 2022 meeting of the committee be approved with the correction. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.*

### DESCRIPTION OF DISTRIBUTED MATERIALS AND DISCUSSION OF COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT

Chair Brooks welcomed members and suggested the committee discuss and vote on each bill draft separately.

### **LRB-0590/P2, Relating to Calculating a Consolidated School District's Revenue Limit**

Emily Hicks, Legislative Council staff, described LRB-0590/P2, noting that the bill draft is unchanged from the committee's prior meeting.

*Representative Considine moved, seconded by Mr. Bagstad, that the committee recommend introduction of LRB-0590/P2. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.*

### **LRB-0559/P4, Relating to School and School District Accountability Report for a Consolidated School District**

Raine Black, Legislative Council staff, described LRB-0559/P4, noting that the revised bill draft changes the statement that the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) must include in the report cards published for the school year in which a consolidation takes effect and the subsequent two school years to specify that "necessary data," instead of "updated data," is not available for the school district. This change was requested by the committee at the November 30, 2022 meeting.

*Mr. Bagstad moved, seconded by Mr. Niehaus, that the committee recommend introduction of LRB-0559/P4. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.*

### **LRB-0560/P3, Relating to Grants for Feasibility Studies of School District Consolidation or Whole Grade Sharing and Making an Appropriation**

Ms. Hicks described LRB-0560/P3, noting that the revised bill draft incorporates the committee's decisions at the November 30, 2022 meeting. The requested changes were to remove language requiring a school board to vote on consolidation, and to clarify that each school board, rather than each school board "member," must adopt a consolidation resolution in order for districts to receive a grant under the draft. Representative Considine commented that he received feedback from constituents interested in eliminating whole grade sharing from the bill draft. Chair Brooks suggested that such an amendment could be introduced during the standing committee process, and provided the committee with a brief explanation of the next steps for any bill drafts the committee recommends for introduction.

*Mr. Dellutri moved, seconded by Ms. Villalobos, that the committee recommend introduction of LRB-0560/P3. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.*

### **LRB-0561/P3, Relating to State Aid for School District Consolidation**

Ms. Black described LRB-0561/P3, noting that the bill draft creates an appropriation of \$1.5 million, rather than \$2.5 million, in the 2024-25 fiscal year, as requested by the committee at the November 30, 2022 meeting. Chair Brooks suggested changing the bill draft so a consolidated school district would receive 25 percent of the statewide average base revenue limit under s. 121.91 (2m) (i) 1., Stats., in only the first year following consolidation, rather than the seven-year tapered aid structure set forth in the bill draft. Ms. Villalobos indicated her preference for the bill draft as written. Mr. Bagstad and Senator Bewley expressed concerns about creating a funding cliff by providing aid for only a single year. Mr. Dellutri concurred with Ms. Villalobos, Mr. Bagstad, and Senator Bewley. Representative Considine commented that he would not be supporting the bill draft largely because all schools, especially rural schools, should receive better funding in general, and this bill draft does not really fix any problems.

*Ms. Villalobos moved, seconded by Mr. Bagstad, that the committee recommend introduction of LRB-0561/P3. The motion passed by a vote of Ayes, 7 (Rep. Brooks; Sen. Bewley; and Public Members Bagstad, Dellutri, Guyette, Niehaus, and Villalobos); Noes, 1 (Rep. Considine); and Absent, 2 (Sen. Feyen and Public Member Neitzke).*

### **LRB-0570/P3, Relating to Reimbursements to School Districts and Cooperative Educational Service Agencies for the Cost of Writing Federal and State Grant Applications and Making an Appropriation**

Ms. Hicks described LRB-0570/P3, noting that the revised bill draft appropriates \$2.6 million in fiscal years 2023-24 and 2024-25 and limits the amount any school district or cooperative educational service agency (CESA) may receive in each school year to \$12,000. Mr. Bagstad commented that he has heard overwhelming support for this bill draft. Ms. Guyette expressed concern that the bill draft does not go far enough to help rural schools and the committee discussed why it moved away from legislation that would create and fund grant writers in CESAs. Representative Considine indicated he would not be supporting the bill draft because he does not support requiring districts to compete for funds.

*Ms. Villalobos moved, seconded by Mr. Dellutri, that the committee recommend introduction of LRB-0570/P3. The motion passed by a vote of Ayes, 7 (Rep. Brooks; Sen. Bewley; and Public Members Bagstad, Dellutri, Guyette, Niehaus, and Villalobos); Noes, 1 (Rep. Considine); and Absent, 2 (Sen. Feyen and Public Member Neitzke).*

### **LRB-0571/P3, Relating to Aid to School Districts that Share Services for Costs Associated With Student Information Systems**

Ms. Black described LRB-0571/P3, noting that the revised bill draft appropriates \$450,000 in fiscal years 2023-24 and 2024-25, and removes the sunset provisions that were included in the prior version of the draft. Representative Considine noted that two districts and a CESA he spoke with indicated that they did not see a need for the funding provided by this bill draft. Mr. Bagstad indicated that the funding would make a big difference in his area of the state. Mr. Dellutri commented that having different information systems can be very onerous for districts sharing services.

The conversation then turned to amending the bill draft to also allow union high school districts and their underlying K-8 districts to apply for aid for student information systems. Mr. Dellutri and Ms. Villalobos explained that K-8 and union high school districts could benefit from the funding provided in the bill draft in order to increase and streamline communications between the districts.

*Mr. Bagstad moved, seconded by Mr. Dellutri, that LRB-0571/P3 be amended to include union high school and K-8 districts by including on page 3, line 17, after "other school districts" the following: "or is part of a K-8 and union high school system." The motion passed by a vote of Ayes, 7 (Rep. Brooks; Sen. Bewley; and Public Members Bagstad, Dellutri, Guyette, Niehaus, and Villalobos); Noes, 1 (Rep. Considine); and Absent, 2 (Sen. Feyen and Public Member Neitzke).*

*Mr. Bagstad moved, seconded by Mr. Dellutri, that the committee recommend introduction of LRB-0571/P3, as amended. The motion passed by a vote of Ayes 7 (Rep. Brooks; Sen. Bewley; and Public Members*

*Bagstad, Dellutri, Guyette, Niehaus, and Villalobos); Noes, 1 (Rep. Considine); and Absent, 2 (Sen. Feyen and Public Member Neitzke).*

### **LRB-0572/P4, Relating to Aid for Transporting Pupils Between School Districts That Share Services**

Ms. Hicks described LRB-0572/P4, explaining that the revised bill draft provides additional transportation aid to districts that provide transportation as part of a shared services agreement with another school district in the following amounts per student per year, reduced proportionally based on the number of instructional days for which transportation was provided: (1) if the distance between the two schools is at least two miles but no more than five miles, \$35; (2) if the distance between the two schools is more than five miles but no more than eight miles, \$55; (3) if the distance between the two schools is more than eight miles but no more than 12 miles, \$110; and (4) if the distance between the two schools is more than 12 miles, \$375. Finally, Ms. Hicks noted that the bill draft adds \$150,000 in the 2024-25 fiscal year to the transportation aid fund.

The committee discussed the current vocational education transportation statute and whether the bill draft's provision of an additional \$150,000 per year in the transportation aid fund is sufficient. Committee members noted that pupil transportation aid is currently prorated because the funding allocated annually is not sufficient to aid all statutorily eligible transportation. Committee members discussed whether the additional \$150,000 provided by the bill draft was sufficient to account for the additional transportation that would be eligible for aid under the bill draft. Committee members largely agreed that \$150,000 is a sufficient amount. Mr. Dellutri suggested requiring DPI to report on the use of this aid to the appropriate standing committees of the Legislature; however, after discussion, the committee did not reach consensus to add this requirement.

*Mr. Bagstad moved, seconded by Mr. Niehaus, that the committee recommend introduction of LRB-0572/P4. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.*

### **LRB-0558/P4, Relating to Reducing the Number of Members on the School Board of a Consolidated School District**

Ms. Black described LRB-0558/P4, noting that after consulting with Chair Brooks and the Legislative Reference Bureau, the revised bill draft did not include all of the changes the committee requested at the November 30, 2022 committee meeting. Chair Brooks explained that amending the bill draft to include all school boards with at least three members, requiring that if a school board reduces its number of members it must reduce to the next lowest odd number, and requiring an annual election, resulted in a situation that was not mathematically feasible. Therefore, Chair Brooks directed that the bill draft be revised to apply only to newly consolidated districts with five or more members; permit but not require, a school board in a newly consolidated district to be reduced by two members at a time; and require that an election be held annually. Chair Brooks stated his belief that the revised bill draft still addresses the original problem Ms. Villalobos raised at prior meetings. Ms. Villalobos agreed, and expressed her support for the revised bill draft. The committee then briefly discussed the specific issues her district faced during consolidation.

*Ms. Villalobos moved, seconded by Mr. Dellutri, that the committee recommend introduction of LRB-0558/P4. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.*

## **DISCUSSION OF COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT**

Chair Brooks noted that he would work on two matters outside of the study committee process: legislation relating to rehired teacher annuitants, and legislation to provide state aid for shared school district personnel. Chair Brooks sought input from members regarding what they would like to see accomplished by legislation to provide state aid for shared school district personnel.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Brooks thanked the committee members for their service and the time they devoted to the committee process.

The meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

EH:jal