HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 549   **DATE:** February 9, 2001

     Version: As Introduced

     Authors: Solberg and Others

     Subject: Sparsity Revenue; Adjusting the Isolation Index

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Overview

School districts that are both geographically isolated and that have relatively few pupils are eligible for sparsity revenue. Secondary sparsity revenue requires the district's secondary school to serve less than 400 students and to be found sparse according to a formula that measures both the distance to the next nearest secondary school and the square mile area of the school district. The area measure is calculated as the square root of 55 percent of the area of the district. The area measure is then added to the miles to the next nearest high school, and if the sum of these two measures is greater than 33, then the district reaches its maximum isolation index number.

H.F. 549 increases 55 percent to 95 percent of the area. This results in additional sparsity revenue for those school districts that are not yet at the maximum isolation index number. The bill also increases the measure for the distance to the nearest school by replacing the current measure of distance to the next nearest high school to the average distance to the high schools in all of the bordering school districts.

Section

1   **Secondary sparsity revenue definitions.** Increases sparsity revenue to school districts that are not at the maximum level of isolation by increasing the portion of the square mile area that is used from 55 percent to 90 percent of the area. It also increases the distance measure by replacing the distance to the next nearest high school with the average distance to the high schools in all of the bordering school districts.