

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Pilot program to provide an interactive whiteboard technology in school districts

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Overview

Makes a onetime \$10,000,000 general fund appropriation in fiscal year 2008 for school site grants to demonstrate the educational advantages of an interactive whiteboard technology.

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1 SMART board pilot program.

Subd. 1. Eligibility. Allows school districts and charter schools to apply to the Education Department for schools to participate as an interactive whiteboard technology pilot site. Directs the department to develop criteria to evaluate the ability of applicants to serve as pilot sites to demonstrate the educational advantages of an interactive whiteboard technology.

Subd. 2. Grants. Directs the department to award grants on an equitable geographic basis to an interactive whiteboard technology pilot sites. Requires the grant amounts to be sufficient to install and operate an interactive whiteboard technology at each pilot site.

Subd. 3. Public-private funding. Directs the Education Department to develop a process to receive private sector gifts and bequests on behalf of the pilot program.

Subd. 4. Evaluation. Directs the Education Department to report to the legislature by January 15, 2009, on the ability of the an interactive whiteboard technology to

Section

advance student achievement.

- 2** **Appropriation.** Makes a onetime \$10,000,000 appropriation from the general fund in fiscal year 2008 to the Education Department for school site grants to demonstrate the educational advantages of an interactive whiteboard technology. Requires grantees to reserve 10 percent of the grant amount for staff development.