

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Reducing the paperwork burden of special educators through an online system for reporting due process compliance data

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Overview

Directs the education commissioner to contract for a sustainable, commercially available online system, to be integrated and customized, for reporting required due process compliance data. Reallocates for this purpose a 2013 education department appropriation for special education paperwork cost savings.

Section

- 1** **Online reporting of required data.** (a) For compliance and accountability purposes for children with disabilities and to increase the opportunities of educators and service providers to focus on teaching children with disabilities, directs the education commissioner to contract for a statewide online system to collect and report required special education due process compliance data.
- (b) Directs the commissioner to consult with various experts on maintaining the online system. Requires the online system, among other things, to successfully interface with existing state reporting systems and districts' local data systems and to:
- efficiently and effectively transmit transferring students' records,
 - address language and other barriers preventing parents from communicating information about their children with disabilities,
 - facilitate school districts' ability to bill third party payers for health-related services provided to a child with disabilities,

Section

- help improve the interface among the online systems serving children with disabilities,
- have expert technical assistance readily available to work with/on the online system.

(c) Directs the education commissioner to use the RFP process to contract for a commercially available online system and the technology and software needed to integrate and customize the system and make it fully functional, consistent with the requirements of this subdivision. Requires the online system to be made available to school districts without charge beginning in the 2014-2015 school year and later. Allows school districts to use the online system or contract with an outside vendor for the 2014-2015 through 2016-2017 school years and requires school districts to use this system beginning in the 2017-2018 school year for compliance reporting.

(d) Directs the commissioner to establish a public Internet web interface to provide information to educators, parents, and the public about special education reports, respond to special education queries, and use the information garnered from the interface to streamline and revise special education reporting and further adapt/customize the online system.

(e) Directs the commissioner to report annually to the legislature by February 1 on the status, changes, and sustainability of the online system.

- 2** **Special education paperwork cost savings.** Amends a 2013 general fund appropriation of \$1,763,000 to the department of education for special education paperwork cost savings to allow the appropriation to be used for contracting for the online system under section 1.

Makes this section effective immediately.