

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

FOR

## **Senate Bill No. 344**

(By Senator Plymale)

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[Originating in the Committee on Education;  
reported March 1, 2013.]

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A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated §18-2-26a, relating to regional meetings among certain officials of county boards of education; establishing purposes and limitation; requiring notice; setting forth the responsibilities of county and state education officials; soliciting input from organizations having an interest in education; requiring certain reports; and providing a process for approval of training.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

That the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended by adding thereto a new section, designated §18-2-26a, to read as follows:

**ARTICLE 2. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.**

**§18-2-26a. Regional meetings; attendance; training; reports.**

1 (a) During the months of July and August, 2013, and  
2 thereafter biennially within two months following the  
3 organizational meetings of county boards required by section  
4 one-c, article five of this chapter, all county superintendents of  
5 schools and members of county boards belonging to the same  
6 regional educational service agency shall meet together to  
7 identify administrative, coordinating and other county-level  
8 services and functions that may be shared between or among  
9 the county boards, especially when resignations, retirements,  
10 staffing realignments or similar events may occur. The  
11 meeting shall be a special meeting of each participating county  
12 board, to be called pursuant to section four, article five of this  
13 chapter solely for the purposes set forth in this section.

14 (b) As soon as each meeting is scheduled, the West  
15 Virginia School Board Association shall notify the state  
16 superintendent in writing of the time, place and date of the  
17 meeting. The association shall conduct the meetings and for

18 that purpose may consult with the regional educational service  
19 agencies. The format of the meetings shall be approved by the  
20 state board in advance.

21 (c) Prior to seeking the approval of the state board for the  
22 format of the meetings, the association shall solicit input from  
23 statewide organizations that have an interest in public  
24 education, including organizations representing the interests of  
25 parents, business and industry, public school administrators,  
26 teachers and service personnel.

27 (d) By October 1 following the meetings required by this  
28 section, the West Virginia School Board Association shall  
29 provide a report of the meetings to the state board and the  
30 Legislative Oversight Commission on Education  
31 Accountability. The report shall include, but is not limited to,  
32 the following items:

33 (1) Identification of the administrative, coordinating and  
34 other county-level services and functions that may be shared  
35 between or among the county boards;

36 (2) An analysis of the advantages and disadvantages of  
37 sharing services in each instance; and

38 (3) A process for implementing recommended changes.

39 (e) Subject to state board approval, the county board  
40 member training standards review committee established by  
41 section one-a, article five of this chapter may determine that  
42 the attendance of a county board member at the meeting  
43 required by subsection (a) of this section shall be approved as  
44 training related to boardsmanship and governance  
45 effectiveness.

46 (f) Nothing in this section requires the elimination or  
47 consolidation of county school districts.