

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2016 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

Senate Bill 632

BY SENATOR SYPOLT

[Introduced February 18, 2016;

Referred to the Committee on Education.]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §18-2-26a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating
 2 to county superintendents of schools and members of county boards meeting to consider
 3 whether the laws of this state might better empower and equip the county boards to attain
 4 the goals established for public education by the Legislative Oversight Commission on
 5 Education Accountability and the state board; and to report to the Legislative Oversight
 6 Commission on Education Accountability and the state board.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

1 That §18-2-26a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended and
 2 reenacted to read as follows:

ARTICLE 2. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

§18-2-26a. Regional meetings on ~~shared services and functions~~ better empowering and equipping county boards to attain the goals for public education; notice, solicitation of input and approval; reports.

1 (a) ~~During the months of July and August, 2013 and thereafter biennially within two months~~
 2 ~~following the organizational meetings of county boards required by section one-c, article five of~~
 3 ~~this chapter~~ Between August 1 and December 1, 2016, all county superintendents of schools and
 4 members of county boards belonging to the same regional educational service agency shall meet
 5 together to ~~identify administrative, coordinating and other county level services and functions that~~
 6 ~~may be shared between or among the county boards, especially when resignations, retirements,~~
 7 ~~staffing realignments or similar events may occur~~ consider whether the laws of this state might
 8 better empower and equip the county boards to attain the goals established for public education
 9 by the Legislature and the state board. The ~~meeting~~ meetings shall be a special ~~meeting~~ meetings
 10 of ~~each participating~~ the county board boards to be called pursuant to section four, article five of
 11 this chapter solely for the purposes set forth in this section.

12 (b) As soon as each meeting is scheduled, the West Virginia School Board Association
 13 shall notify the Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability and the state

14 superintendent in writing of the time, place and date of the meeting. The association shall conduct
15 the meetings and for that purpose may consult with the regional educational service agencies.
16 ~~The format of the meetings shall be approved by the state board in advance.~~

17 (c) ~~Prior to seeking the approval of the state board for the format of the meetings~~ In
18 planning the meetings the association shall solicit input from statewide organizations that have
19 an interest in public education, including organizations representing the interests of parents,
20 business and industry, public school administrators, teachers and service personnel.

21 (d) By ~~October~~ January 1, following the meetings required by this section, the West
22 Virginia School Board Association shall provide a report of the meetings to the ~~state board and~~
23 ~~the~~ Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability and the state board. The report
24 shall ~~include, but is not limited to, the following items: (1) Identification of the administrative,~~
25 ~~coordinating and other county level services and functions that may be shared between or among~~
26 ~~the county boards; (2) An analysis of the advantages and disadvantages of sharing services in~~
27 ~~each instance; and (3) A process for implementing recommended changes~~ identify ways in which
28 the laws of this state might better empower and equip the county boards to attain the goals
29 established for public education by the Legislature and state board, whether by the enactment of
30 new laws or the amendment or repeal of existing laws.

31 (e) Subject to state board approval, the county board member training standards review
32 committee established by section one-a, article five of this chapter may determine that the
33 attendance of a county board member at ~~the~~ a meeting required by subsection (a) of this section
34 shall be approved as training related to boardsmanship and governance effectiveness.

35 (f) ~~Nothing in this section requires the elimination or consolidation of county school districts~~
36 Based upon the report submitted to the Legislative Oversight Commission on Education
37 Accountability under this section, the Legislature intends at its 2017 and 2018 regular sessions to
38 consider whether to enact new laws, or amend or repeal existing laws, to better empower and
39 equip the county boards to attain the goals established for public education by the Legislature

- 40 and state board, including, but not limited to, laws:
- 41 (1) Granting more discretion to county boards;
- 42 (2) Increasing their responsibility and accountability;
- 43 (3) Building their leadership capacity;
- 44 (4) Encouraging or requiring innovation;
- 45 (5) Funding their operations;
- 46 (6) Encouraging or requiring collaboration between or among county boards, regional
- 47 educational service agencies and other entities; and
- 48 (7) Directing the state board to establish rules, processes and programs.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require county superintendents of schools and members of county boards to meet to consider whether the laws of this state might better empower and equip the county boards to attain the goals established for public education by the Legislature and the state board, and to report to the Legislature and the state board.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law, and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.