

1 HB94
2 126268-1
3 By Representative McClammy
4 RFD: Education Policy
5 First Read: 01-MAR-11

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8 SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, local boards of
9 education are authorized to consolidate county
10 schools within and between county school systems
11 and city schools into a county school system.

12 This bill would create the Alabama Permanent
13 Committee on School District Consolidation to study
14 and develop a comprehensive plan for the
15 consolidation of public K-12 schools throughout the
16 state.

17
18 A BILL
19 TO BE ENTITLED
20 AN ACT
21

22 To create the Alabama Permanent Committee on School
23 District Consolidation; to provide for the membership and
24 duties of the committee; to provide for the creation of
25 subcommittees; to provide for the annual report of the
26 committee to the Legislature; and to provide for the
27 compensation of members.

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

2 Section 1. The Permanent Committee on School
3 District Consolidation is created. The committee shall study
4 the current organization of school districts throughout the
5 state and develop a comprehensive plan for the consolidation
6 of schools and school districts.

7 Section 2. The committee shall be comprised of the
8 following members:

9 (1) Two members appointed by the President of the
10 Senate.

11 (2) Two members appointed by the Speaker of the
12 House of Representatives.

13 (3) One member appointed by the President Pro
14 Tempore of the Senate.

15 (4) One member appointed by the Speaker Pro Tempore
16 of the House.

17 (5) One member appointed by the Chair of the Senate
18 Education Committee.

19 (6) One member appointed by the Chair of the House
20 Education Policy Committee.

21 (7) One member appointed by the Chair of the Senate
22 Finance and Taxation Education Committee.

23 (8) One member appointed by the Chair of the House
24 Ways and Means Education Committee.

25 (9) One member appointed by the Governor.

26 (10) The State Superintendent of Education, or his
27 or her designee.

1 (11) The State Finance Director, or his or her
2 designee.

3 Section 3. (a) The membership of the committee shall
4 reflect the racial, ethnic, gender, geographic, urban/rural,
5 and economic diversity of the state. The committee shall
6 annually report to the Legislature by the second legislative
7 day of each regular session the extent to which the committee
8 has complied with the diversity provisions provided for in
9 this subsection.

10 (b) Initial appointments to the committee shall be
11 made within 45 days after the effective date of this act.

12 (c) The initial meeting of the committee shall be
13 convened by the appointee of the President of the Senate
14 within 60 days after the effective date of this act.
15 Thereafter, the committee shall meet at the call of the chair
16 or a majority of the members of the committee at least once
17 each four months. The committee may meet, act, and conduct its
18 business at any place within this state during the sessions of
19 the Legislature, or any recess thereof, and in the interim
20 period between sessions.

21 (d) The committee shall elect an interim chair from
22 among its members at the initial meeting of the committee. The
23 interim chair shall serve until January 2012, at which time a
24 chair and vice chair shall be elected from among the
25 membership of the committee to serve until January 2014. The
26 interim chair may be elected chair or vice chair in January
27 2012. Beginning in January 2012, and every two years

1 thereafter, the committee shall elect from among its members a
2 chair and a vice chair.

3 (e) Any vacancy on the committee shall be filled in
4 the same manner as the original appointment.

5 (f) Upon the request of the committee, staff support
6 shall be provided by legislative staff and other state
7 agencies. Additionally, the Secretary of the Senate, the Clerk
8 of the House of Representatives, and the advisory
9 subcommittees created herein shall provide any assistance as
10 may be necessary at the request of the committee.

11 Section 4. The committee shall make a continuous
12 study of the current organization of schools and school
13 districts throughout Alabama and make recommendations for
14 legislation and initiatives to accomplish the overall goal and
15 objective of developing a comprehensive plan for the
16 consolidation of school districts. The study shall include,
17 but not be limited to, an evaluation of the manner in which
18 schools and school districts throughout the state may be
19 consolidated to eliminate unnecessary administration costs and
20 maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of the public
21 education system in Alabama. The committee shall specifically
22 address the viability of consolidating existing schools and
23 school districts into an organizational structure where each
24 county shall have one singular school district which is
25 comprised of all public schools located in the county.

1 Section 5. In conducting the study, the factors to
2 be considered by the committee shall include, but not be
3 limited to, all of the following:

4 (1) Geography and demographics.

5 (2) Student population.

6 (3) Fiscal impact at state, county, and municipal
7 levels.

8 (4) Potential impact on the ability of students to
9 achieve at high levels.

10 (5) Potential impact on student performance.

11 (6) Administrative consolidation.

12 (7) Governance.

13 Section 6. The chair and vice chair of the committee
14 shall jointly create and appoint members to advisory
15 subcommittees which shall include, but not be limited to,
16 members of the committee, representatives from governmental
17 agencies, and members of the public with interest and
18 expertise in the objectives of the committee. The State
19 Superintendent of Education, or his or her designee, shall be
20 a member of each advisory subcommittee created. Each advisory
21 subcommittee shall be cochaired by one legislative member of
22 the committee and one private sector member or governmental
23 entity member having significant knowledge, experience, and
24 expertise in the subject or subjects the subcommittee is
25 responsible for studying. Private sector cochairs of the
26 subcommittees shall reflect the racial, ethnic, gender,
27 geographic, urban/rural, and economic diversity of the state.

1 The committee shall annually report to the Legislature by the
2 second legislative day of each regular session the extent to
3 which the subcommittees have complied with the diversity
4 provisions provided for in this section.

5 Section 7. The committee shall submit an initial
6 written report of its findings and recommendations by the
7 tenth legislative day of the 2012 Regular Session, and each
8 regular session thereafter. The committee may make additional
9 recommendations and submit studies and reports to the
10 Legislature at any time.

11 Section 8. Each legislative member of the committee
12 and each legislative member of a subcommittee shall be
13 entitled to his or her regular legislative compensation, his
14 or her per diem, and travel expenses for each day he or she
15 attends a meeting of the committee or a subcommittee which
16 shall be paid out of any funds appropriated for the use of the
17 Legislature upon warrants drawn by the state Comptroller, upon
18 requisitions signed by the chair of the committee. Legislative
19 members may not receive additional legislative compensation or
20 per diem when the Legislature is in session or if a member is
21 being paid any other payments on the same dates for attendance
22 on other state business. Each nonlegislative member of a
23 subcommittee shall receive the same mileage and per diem as
24 allowed for state employees while attending meetings of the
25 committee or subcommittee.

1 Section 9. Annual expenses and compensation of the
2 committee from state funds shall not exceed ten thousand
3 dollars (\$10,000) per fiscal year.

4 Section 10. This act shall become effective
5 immediately following its passage and approval by the
6 Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.