OLR Bill Analysis
sHB 7350

AN ACT CONCERNING REGIONAL COOPERATION AND THE SHARING OF SERVICES AMONG REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTERS AND MEMBER BOARDS OF EDUCATION.

SUMMARY

This bill requires each of the state’s six regional educational service centers (RESC) to annually distribute to its member boards of education, starting July 1, 2020, an inventory of services it offers (e.g., professional development), including a model of regional special education services. The bill requires that each RESC, when developing the inventory, consider (1) a regional survey of services that the bill requires it to conduct and then report to the State Department of Education (SDE) and (2) for inventories developed after October 1, 2020, a report on RESC best practices that SDE must annually develop based on the RESC surveys. SDE must submit the report annually to the Education Committee, starting by October 1, 2020.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2019

SERVICE NEEDS SURVEY

The bill requires each RESC to conduct, in consultation with SDE, a regional survey of services and programs provided in its region by January 1, 2020, and annually thereafter. The survey’s purpose is to (1) identify the need for regional cooperation in providing or sharing education services and programs among member boards and (2) enhancing or adding new RESC services and programs.

Member boards must each complete the survey, which includes (1) an inventory of education services and programs the board provides, (2) the total cost incurred by each school district for all such services and programs, and (3) the cost for each individual service and program. Each RESC must develop and maintain its own survey

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procedure and may conduct subsequent surveys as necessary.

**INVENTORY OF SERVICES**

The bill requires each RESC to annually distribute, starting July 1, 2020, to its member boards of education an inventory of goods and services it offers, including a regional special education service model that existing law required RESCs to develop. By law, the regional model includes special education transportation, training, and therapeutic services for all school districts served by the RESC (CGS § 10-66r).

In developing its inventory, each RESC must consider the results of its service need survey. The bill requires each RESC to annually submit its inventory to SDE but does not provide a deadline for this submission.

**BEST PRACTICES REPORT**

The bill requires SDE to develop a report on RESC best practices for regional cooperation and service sharing. SDE must base the report on the RESC inventories and reports submitted under the bill.

SDE must annually submit the report and any recommendations to each RESC and the Education Committee, starting by October 1, 2020.

Any RESC service inventory developed after October 1, 2020, must also incorporate any best practices from SDE’s report. Each RESC must annually submit along with the inventory described above a report on its best practices for regional cooperation and shared services to SDE. As with the annual inventory, the bill does not provide a deadline for RESCs to submit the best practices report to SDE.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Education Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 23  Nay 13  (03/29/2019)