

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to regional consortium service
 3 organizations; amending s. 1001.451, F.S.; requiring the
 4 determination of services and use of funds to be
 5 established by the board of directors of a regional
 6 consortium service organization; authorizing establishment
 7 of purchasing and bidding programs in lieu of individual
 8 school district bid arrangements; authorizing
 9 establishment of an educational foundation governed by an
 10 educational foundation board of directors; providing for
 11 use of property, facilities, and personnel services by an
 12 educational foundation; requiring audits; providing an
 13 effective date.

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 15 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 17 Section 1. Section 1001.451, Florida Statutes, is amended
 18 to read:

19 1001.451 Regional consortium service organizations.--In
 20 order to provide a full range of programs to larger numbers of
 21 students, minimize duplication of services, and encourage the
 22 development of new programs and services:

23 (1) School districts with 20,000 or fewer unweighted full-
 24 time equivalent students, developmental research (laboratory)
 25 schools established pursuant to s. 1002.32, and the Florida
 26 School for the Deaf and the Blind may enter into cooperative
 27 agreements to form a regional consortium service organization.
 28 Each regional consortium service organization shall provide, at

29 a minimum, three of the following services: exceptional student
30 education; teacher education centers; environmental education;
31 federal grant procurement and coordination; data processing;
32 health insurance; risk management insurance; staff development;
33 purchasing; or planning and accountability.

34 (2) (a) Each regional consortium service organization that
35 consists of four or more school districts is eligible to
36 receive, through the Department of Education, an incentive grant
37 of \$50,000 per school district and eligible member to be used
38 for the delivery of services within the participating school
39 districts. The determination of services and use of such funds
40 shall be established by the board of directors of the regional
41 consortium service organization.

42 (b) Application for incentive grants shall be made to the
43 Commissioner of Education by July 30 of each year for
44 distribution to qualifying regional consortium service
45 organizations by January 1 of the fiscal year.

46 (3) In order to economically provide programs and services
47 to participating school districts and members, a regional
48 consortium service organization may establish purchasing and
49 bidding programs, including construction and construction
50 management arrangements, in lieu of individual school district
51 bid arrangements. Participation in regional consortium service
52 organization bids shall be accomplished by action of an
53 individual district school board through a letter of intent to
54 participate and shall be reflected in official district school
55 board minutes.

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56 (4) A regional consortium service organization board of
57 directors may elect to establish an educational foundation
58 independent of the regional consortium service organization's
59 school district of record to be governed by an educational
60 foundation board of directors. The educational foundation must
61 be a Florida not-for-profit corporation incorporated under the
62 provisions of chapter 617 and approved by the Department of
63 State. A regional consortium service organization board of
64 directors may permit the use of property, facilities, and
65 personnel services of the regional consortium service
66 organization by an approved educational foundation. An approved
67 educational foundation with more than \$100,000 in expenditures
68 or expenses must provide for an annual financial audit of its
69 accounts and records to be conducted by an independent certified
70 public accountant. The annual audit report shall be submitted
71 within 9 months after the end of the fiscal year to the
72 educational foundation board of directors and the regional
73 consortium service organization board of directors.

74 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.