

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 a direct-support organization; providing
 10 an effective date.

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

13
 14 Section 1. Section 1001.451, Florida Statutes, is amended
 15 to read:

16 1001.451 Regional consortium service organizations.--In
 17 order to provide a full range of programs to larger numbers of
 18 students, minimize duplication of services, and encourage the
 19 development of new programs and services:

20 (1) School districts with 20,000 or fewer unweighted full-
 21 time equivalent students, developmental research (laboratory)
 22 schools established pursuant to s. 1002.32, and the Florida
 23 School for the Deaf and the Blind may enter into cooperative
 24 agreements to form a regional consortium service organization.
 25 Each regional consortium service organization shall provide, at
 26 a minimum, three of the following services: exceptional student
 27 education; teacher education centers; environmental education;
 28 federal grant procurement and coordination; data processing;

29 health insurance; risk management insurance; staff development;
30 purchasing; or planning and accountability.

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

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

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

54 (4) A regional consortium service organization board of
55 directors may elect to establish a direct-support organization
56 pursuant to s. 1001.453 which is independent of its fiscal agent

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57 | district.

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