

1 INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2009-111

2
3 REQUESTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION CONDUCT A STUDY OF
4 THE COST, EFFICIENCY, BENEFITS, AND POTENTIAL DRAWBACKS OF
5 CONSOLIDATING SCHOOL DISTRICTS INTO COUNTYWIDE SCHOOL DISTRICTS.
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7 WHEREAS, there are a number of small school districts in the state; and
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9 WHEREAS, small school districts can face financial difficulty due the
10 small student population and find it difficult to meet all academic
11 requirements required by the Department of Education; and
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13 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial for the state to examine the potential
14 impacts of countywide school districts;; and
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16 WHEREAS, countywide school districts would reduce the number of school
17 districts in the state and the administrative costs that stem from school
18 district operation,
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20 NOW THEREFORE,

21 BE IT PROPOSED BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION OF THE EIGHTY-SEVENTH
22 GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

23 THAT the House Committee On Education, with the assistance of the
24 Department of Education, the Arkansas School Boards Association, and the
25 Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators, conduct a study of the
26 cost, efficiency, benefits, and potential drawbacks of consolidating school
27 districts into countywide school districts.
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29 BE IT FURTHER PROPOSED, that the House Committee On Education study
30 include research on the following issues, at a minimum:

31 (a) The financial implications to the state and school districts of
32 countywide school district consolidation;

33 (b) The criteria, including academic and fiscal, for school districts
34 to consolidate into countywide school districts;

35 (c) Administrative and legal considerations involved in the
36 consolidation of school districts into countywide school districts; and

1 (d) The academic progress of students who attended a school district
2 which have been consolidated or annexed into another school district.

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4 Respectfully submitted,

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8 Representative Donna Hutchinson
9 District 98

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33 Filed Date: 04/08/2009 By: SAG/sag