

# House File 761 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE \_\_\_\_\_  
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 265)

Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

## A BILL FOR

1 An Act providing for the establishment of a task force to study a  
2 renewed effort to reorganize school districts.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:  
4 TLSB 2071HV 83  
5 kh/rj/5

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1 1 Section 1. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION == SCHOOL  
1 2 REORGANIZATION TASK FORCE.  
1 3 1. The department of education shall convene a task force  
1 4 to study the advisability and practicability of a renewed  
1 5 effort to reorganize school districts to improve student  
1 6 opportunity and achievement and attain efficiencies in  
1 7 administration and operations.  
1 8 2. a. The director of the department of education shall  
1 9 appoint members to the task force which shall include  
1 10 education practitioners and stakeholders, including but not  
1 11 limited to educational technology and school transportation  
1 12 specialists, school business officials, and persons who  
1 13 represent rural, urban, and suburban school districts  
1 14 throughout Iowa; a professional with experience or expertise  
1 15 in state and local taxation matters; and other stakeholders as  
1 16 appropriate.  
1 17 b. The task force shall select a chairperson from its  
1 18 membership. A majority of the members of the task force shall  
1 19 constitute a quorum.  
1 20 3. The study shall include but shall not be limited to the  
1 21 following:  
1 22 a. A review of incentives intended to encourage school  
1 23 districts to initiate sharing agreements with other districts,  
1 24 utilize area education agency administrative and operations  
1 25 services, and move toward reorganization.  
1 26 b. Determination of the costs and methods for implementing  
1 27 the incentives identified.  
1 28 c. A review of reorganization efforts since 1979.  
1 29 d. A review of the barriers to school district  
1 30 consolidation, including transportation distances and costs,  
1 31 athletic and community identification, and infrastructure  
1 32 deficits.  
1 33 e. An analysis of the optimal school and school district  
1 34 size, with consideration given to student transportation times  
1 35 and costs, and where the boundaries of such optimally sized  
2 1 school districts would be established on a proposed statewide  
2 2 reorganization map.  
2 3 f. An evaluation of the effect technology may have on  
2 4 reorganization efforts.  
2 5 g. An analysis of the trends that will affect the need for  
2 6 and advisability of consolidation and sharing efforts over the  
2 7 next five-year and ten-year time periods.  
2 8 h. An analysis of the effect of reorganization on the  
2 9 status of and federal funding to schools and school districts  
2 10 under the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Pub. L.  
2 11 No. 107=110.  
2 12 i. Identification of actions that may be taken by the  
2 13 state, the department of education, area education agencies,  
2 14 and stakeholders that have proven to assist school district  
2 15 reorganization and sharing efforts.  
2 16 4. The task force shall report its findings and  
2 17 recommendations, including any recommendations for statutory  
2 18 changes, to the state board of education and the general

2 19 assembly by January 15, 2010.

2 20 EXPLANATION

2 21 This bill directs the department of education to convene to  
2 22 study the advisability and practicability of a renewed effort  
2 23 to consolidate school districts to improve student opportunity  
2 24 and achievement and attain efficiencies in administration and  
2 25 operations.

2 26 The director of the department is directed to appoint  
2 27 members to the task force which shall include education  
2 28 practitioners and stakeholders, including but not limited to  
2 29 educational technology and school transportation specialists,  
2 30 school business officials, and persons who represent rural,  
2 31 urban, and suburban school districts throughout Iowa; a  
2 32 professional with experience or expertise in state and local  
2 33 taxation matters; and other stakeholders as appropriate.

2 34 The task force must submit its findings and recommendations  
2 35 in a report to the state board of education and the general  
3 1 assembly by January 15, 2010.

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3 3 kh/rj/5