

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, statement not yet issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways & Means
Vote:	4 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Kruse, Metsger, Morse, Walker
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Westlund
Prepared By:	Dana Richardson, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	3/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires Department of Education to employ one full-time employee to administer talented and gifted program. Requires Department to establish regional talented and gifted planning centers. Appropriates \$860,000 to establish planning centers. Specifies planning center activities. Requires a half-time employee to serve as coordinator for regional planning committee. Declares an emergency; effective July 1, 2007.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Decrease in investment in talented and gifted programs
- Responsibility for delineation of regions for planning centers
- Priorities reflected in funding decisions
- Federal No Child Left Behind requirements

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Designates education service districts as possible sites of planning centers. Appropriates moneys and requires a half-time employee to serve as coordinator for regional planning committee. Specifies planning center activities. Deletes requirement for districts to submit talented and gifted plans of instruction to Superintendent of Public Instruction.

BACKGROUND: In 2004, the Department conducted a series of public input sessions across the state to gauge the status of talented and gifted education in the State. Input from those session indicated concerns for talented and gifted programs included lack of funding, lack of Department leadership and direction, and inadequate and inconsistent program services. Several suggestions were made relevant to improving talented and gifted programs such as regional support committees for staff, enhanced communication systems across the state, and professional development. A specific recommendation was made to re-establish talented and gifted regional planning groups to address statewide personnel development.