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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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Bill: House File 2295
Committee: Education
Date: February 15, 2010
Ranking Member: Chambers
Staff: Ann McCarthy (1-3015)

Comprehensive Study of AEAs

Ten years ago the legislature asked the Iowa Department of Education to undertake a study of Iowa's Area Education Agencies (AEAs). As a result of that study AEAs are now accredited to assure quality. The study also prompted a new law allowing AEAs to merge. Since that time the number of AEAs has been reduced from 15 to ten. Next school year AEA 13 and 14 will merge for a total of nine AEAs.

HF 2295 asks the Iowa DE to undertake another comprehensive study of the AEAs. The DE will look at the mission, structure, governance and funding of the AEAs to determine if the current model is applicable to the needs of Iowa's school districts.

Summary of Action

The House Education Committee **PASSED** House Study Bill 658 (now HF 2295) on February 3, 2010 by a vote of 21-0.

Section-by-Section Analysis

Section 1: AEA Task Force Requires the Iowa DE to convene a task force to review the mission, structure, governance and funding of the AEAs to determine if the current model is applicable to the challenges and needs of school districts. The Task Force report is due to the General Assembly by December 15, 2010.

The Task Force is comprised of education stakeholder and consumers of AEA services including but not limited:

- The department of education.

- Area education agencies.
- The Iowa association of school boards.
- The Iowa state education association.
- The school administrators of Iowa.
- Accredited nonpublic schools.
- A parent or guardian of a child receiving special education services.
- The chairpersons and ranking members of the senate and house standing committees on education.