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**SCHOOL DISTRICT SIZE**

2000 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Sponsor: David N. Cox**

AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC EDUCATION; REQUIRING THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO CONDUCT A STUDY AND MAKE A REPORT ON WHETHER THERE SHOULD BE AN OPTIMUM SIZE FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS BASED ON STUDENT POPULATION.

This act enacts uncodified material.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

**Section 1. School district size study -- Report.**

(1) The State Board of Education shall conduct a study during the year 2000 interim to determine:

(a) if there should be an optimum size for school districts within the state's public education system, based upon student population;

(b) whether smaller school districts, in terms of student population, would better promote the mission and maintain the characteristics of the state's public education system detailed in Sections 53A-1a-103 and 53A-1a-104; and

(c) whether a ceiling or range on the size of school districts, in terms of student population, should be established in statute.

(2) The board shall include consideration of the following issues in its study:

(a) the benefits to students and their parents associated with having smaller school districts;

(b) economies of scale in terms of administrative and support costs associated with having smaller districts and how those costs if increased by having smaller districts could be mitigated;

(c) the acquisition, transfer, construction, and maintenance of capital facilities associated with creating smaller school districts; and

- 28            (d) the process by which:
- 29            (i) larger districts could be divided into smaller districts; and
- 30            (ii) new districts would be created as the state's student population continues to grow.
- 31            (3) In conducting its study, the board shall seek input from:
- 32            (a) local school boards and local school superintendents;
- 33            (b) public school administrators, educators, and classified personnel;
- 34            (c) higher education personnel from the state's colleges of education;
- 35            (d) students and parents of students;
- 36            (e) the business community; and
- 37            (f) the general public.
- 38            (4) (a) The board may establish a task force or use a subcommittee of the board to facilitate
- 39 the study.
- 40            (b) The board shall make a report of its findings, together with any recommendations for
- 41 proposed legislation, to the Education Interim Committee and the Strategic Planning for Public and
- 42 Higher Education Committee prior to November 30, 2000.

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**Legislative Review Note**  
**as of 12-9-99 11:22 AM**

A limited legal review of this legislation raises no obvious constitutional or statutory concerns.

**Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel**