

A bill for an act
relating to education; establishing a task force to compare federal and state
special education requirements; appropriating money.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. **TASK FORCE TO COMPARE FEDERAL AND STATE SPECIAL
EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS.**

Subdivision 1. Establishment; duties. A task force is established to compare
federal special education laws and regulations under the Individuals with Disabilities
Education Act (IDEA) and state special education laws and rules under Minnesota
Statutes, chapter 125A, to identify and report all instances where state laws or rules exceed
or expand upon minimum federal requirements for providing special education programs
and services to eligible students. The commissioner of the bureau of mediation services
under Minnesota Statutes, section 179.02, after consulting with interested stakeholders,
shall appoint a ten-member task force composed of equal numbers of providers, advocates,
regulators, consumers of special education services, lawyers who practice in the field of
special education and represent either parents or school districts, and school officials. The
commissioner must convene the task force by June 1, 2007, which shall meet regularly
to review, compare, and analyze federal laws and regulations under IDEA and state
special education laws and rules under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 125A. The terms and
compensation of task force members are governed by Minnesota Statutes, section 15.059,
subdivision 6.

Subd. 2. Report. The task force must submit to the education policy and finance
committees of the legislature by February 15, 2008, a report that identifies and clearly
and concisely explains each provision in state law or rule that exceeds or expands upon

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2.1 a minimum federal requirement contained in law or regulation for providing special
2.2 education programs and services to eligible students. The report also must recommend
2.3 which state provisions that exceed or expand upon a minimum federal requirement may
2.4 be amended to conform with minimum federal requirements. The task force expires
2.5 when it submits its report to the legislature.

2.6 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

2.7 Sec. 2. **APPROPRIATION; TASK FORCE TO COMPARE FEDERAL AND**
2.8 **STATE SPECIAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS.**

2.9 \$..... is appropriated from the general fund in fiscal year 2008 to the commissioner
2.10 of the Bureau of Mediation Services for costs related to the work of the task force to
2.11 compare federal and state special education requirements under section 1.

2.12 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2008.