

Date: 03/17/2009

Committee: House Economic
Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 0830,SD2(SSCR651)(AGS-01) RELATING TO GOVERNMENT
SHARED SERVICES TECHNOLOGY.

Purpose of Bill: Establishes the shared services technology special fund to allow
departments and agencies to pool resources for common technology
systems, hardware, and software. (SD2)

Department's Position: The Department of Education (DOE) supports SB 830, SD2(SSCR651)
and believes that the bill should be clarified in three important areas:

1. The wording does not clearly state that participation by departments
and agencies is voluntary, so we recommend that this be clearly stated.
2. We further recommend that the structure of the fund and department
participation be defined more specifically, to clarify that departments can
elect to participate in only those specific technology areas that are relevant
to their needs. For example, a volume purchase of licenses for a specific
vendor's database product may be relevant to some departments and not
at all applicable to others. The intent of this recommendation is to make it
clear that a department or agency will not be required to contribute to the
fund for a purpose which will not benefit the department at all.
3. SECTION 2., paragraph (a) (2), states: "The use of these funds shall
be authorized by the legislature prior to expenditure." Since the funds
from each participating department or agency would have been already
appropriated prior to being deposited in the shared services technology

special fund, it seems impractical and cumbersome to additionally require that the legislature approve use of the fund prior to expenditures.

There are definitely many potential technology areas of common interest where multiple departments and agencies will want to participate in the fund and associated benefits. However, to make this work in a manner that will encourage participation, we believe that the wording should be clarified as indicated to allow departments to align their participation to their needs.

The DOE very much looks forward to working with the Department of Accounting and General Services and other state departments in identifying opportunities for applying the shared technology concepts and the proposed fund, to obtain efficiencies not otherwise possible.