

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS33392 / S1317

This legislation provides a framework that two or more school districts or charter schools can use to share services that are cost-prohibitive or impractical for a single district or charter to deliver independently.

Regional Service Centers provide targeted support to school districts and charter schools, particularly small and rural ones, with a focus on hard-to-fill special education positions such as speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists, and school psychologists, and other non-instructional positions, such as business managers.

Districts and charters often compete for a limited pool of qualified special education professionals at a high cost, and many do not require full-time staff to meet their students' needs.

The legislation creates a fund to account for various levels of shared service contract costs, paid by school districts and public charter schools that choose to participate, that would vary annually based on the participation of local schools and their specific needs.

Many states use similar models to share specialized services.

### FISCAL NOTE

No new funding is required. The legislation creates a fund that is subject to appropriation and is accounted for in the Governor's FY 2027 K-12 budget at \$1 million. This amount is one-time existing state funding from the Driver Training Account that the Department is reprioritizing to cover start-up staffing costs. Future dollars would come from school districts and public charter schools participating and buying into the services.

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**DISCLAIMER:** This statement of purpose and fiscal note are a mere attachment to this bill and prepared by a proponent of the bill. It is neither intended as an expression of legislative intent nor intended for any use outside of the legislative process, including judicial review (Joint Rule 18).