

Senate Conferees' Additional Responses – 5/13/15

Governance and Related Topics:

- Merger Support Grants – In perpetuity for voluntary merger (school closure & bond provisions)
 - REDs; Accelerated Action; and merger into preferred structure by date certain
- Small Schools Grants – Beginning in 2019 / 2020, receive if:
 - Geographically isolated from school with capacity
 - If NOT geographically isolated, then demonstrate that performing well, good ratios, etc. (other items from House version)
 - SBE determines annually based on published guidelines adopted 1 year before effective
- 3.5 % Hold Harmless –
 - Repeal 2 years after districts are transitioned off “tail”
 - Grandfather merged districts
- RED Incentives – deadline (7/1/17 *operation*) extended to 7/1/17 *vote*
- Act 153/156 incentives for *other types* of joint activity:
 - keep current deadline (7/1/17) for reimbursement of analysis, preparation of documents, etc. regarding any sort of joint activity (\$5,000 – \$2,000)
 - shorten current deadline (7/1/17) to 12/31/15 for \$120,000 Transition Facilitation Grant for SU mergers and district mergers – except:
 - grant available for merger into a RED or into Accelerated Activity model (per respective deadlines) – \$150,000 is reduced by any reimbursement received
- No repayment of State Construction Aid – repealed 11/30/17
 - OK with House language BUT add to report:
 - whether there should be a difference if used for a community purpose, etc.
 - potential cost & State aid for renovation or construction re: merger
- Final Plan – SBE

Other:

- Timeline – No Proposal at this time; to be discussed with Agency
- FY16 Tax Rates – No Proposal at this time
- Ballot – alternative language
- Cost Containment – alternative language