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STATE SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION

House Bill 5537

Sponsor: Rep. Lingg Brewer

**Committee: Advanced Technology and
Computer Development**

Complete to 4-16-98

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 5537 AS INTRODUCED 2-4-98

The bill would create the State School Technology Commission Act, which would establish a state school technology commission to improve the technological capability of schools in Michigan.

The eight-member state school technology commission created within the Department of Education would be composed of the director of the Department of Management and Budget and president of the State Board of Education (or their designees) and six people appointed by the governor: two representing the private sector, two representing school districts, and two representing intermediate school districts. Commission members would have to be appointed within 60 days of the bill's effective date, and would serve three-year terms with the first set of members serving staggered terms. Members would not be paid, but could be reimbursed for expenses incurred while doing commission business. The bill would also provide for the filling of vacancies and the removal of those members appointed by the governor for causes such as incompetency or dereliction of duty. The State Board of Education president would have to call the first meeting, at which time a chairperson and other officers (as deemed necessary) would be elected. After that, the commission would meet at least four times a year. Meetings would have to be conducted in compliance with the Open Meetings Act (MCL 15.261-15.275), and documents meeting certain criteria would be subject to public disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (MCL 15.231-15.246).

Commission duties would include the development of a statewide school technology plan to improve the state's school technology capability, a model technology system, a model Internet usage policy for school staff and pupils, and professional development models for training teachers and other staff in technology, and would also include ascertaining and evaluating the current status of school technology in the state, gathering information and reporting on usage of universal service funds received by public schools, and identifying issues concerning distance learning programs. Further, the commission would have to develop and submit to the governor, the legislature, and the State Board of Education a report on its activities and its recommendations concerning the above subjects not later than November 1, 2000 and November 1 of each subsequent even-numbered year.

Analyst: S. Stutzky

■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House staff for use by House members in their deliberations, and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.