HOUSE FILE _____ BY D. OLSON

 Passed House, Date
 Passed Senate, Date

 Vote:
 Ayes

 Approved
 Vote:

A BILL FOR

1 An Act providing for the biennial election of directors of school 2 districts, merged areas, and area education agencies, and 3 including effective date and transition provisions. 4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA: 5 TLSB 5622HH 82 6 sc/nh/8

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1 1 Section 1. Section 39.24, Code 2007, is amended to read as 1 2 follows: 3 4 1 39.24 SCHOOL OFFICERS. 1 Members of boards of directors of community and independent 5 school districts, and boards of directors of merged areas 1 1 6 shall be elected at the school election. Their terms of 1 7 office shall be three four years, except as otherwise provided
1 8 by section 260C.11 or <u>260C.13</u>, 275.23A, <u>275.37</u>, or <u>275.37A</u>.
1 9 Sec. 2. Section 260C.11, unnumbered paragraph 1, Code
1 10 2007, is amended to read as follows:
1 11 The governing board of a merged area is a board of
1 12 dimentational form and the paragraph dimentation 1 12 directors composed of one member elected from each director 1 13 district in the area by the electors of the respective 1 14 district. Members of the board shall be residents of the 1 15 district from which elected. Successors shall be chosen at 1 16 the annual regular school elections for members whose terms 1 17 expire. The term of a member of the board of directors is 1 18 three four years and commences at the organization meeting. 1 19 Vacancies on the board shall be filled at the next regular 1 20 meeting of the board by appointment by the remaining members 21 of the board. A member so chosen shall be a resident of the 1 1 22 district in which the vacancy occurred and shall serve until a 1 23 member is elected pursuant to section 69.12 to fill the 1 24 vacancy for the balance of the unexpired term. A vacancy is 1 25 defined in section 277.29. A member shall not serve on the 1 26 board of directors who is a member of a board of directors of 1 27 a local school district or a member of an area education 1 28 agency board. 1 29 Sec. 3. Section 260C.12, unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 1 30 2007, is amended to read as follows: The board of directors of the merged area shall organize at 1 31 1 32 the first regular meeting in October of each year December 33 following the regular school election. Organization of the 1 34 board shall be effected by the election of a president and 1 35 other officers from the board membership as board members 1 determine. The board of directors shall appoint a secretary 2 2 and a treasurer who shall each give bond as prescribed in 3 section 291.2 and who shall each receive the salary determined 2 2 4 by the board. The secretary and treasurer shall perform 5 duties under chapter 291 and additional duties the board of 2 2 6 directors deems necessary. However, the board may appoint one 7 person to serve as the secretary and treasurer. If one person 2 2 2 o serves as the secretary and treasurer, only one bond is 2 9 necessary for that person. The frequency of meetings other 2 10 than organizational meetings shall be as determined by the 2 11 board of directors but the president or a majority of the 2 12 members may call a special meeting at any time. 2 13 Sec. 4. Section 260C.13. subsection 1 Code 2007 2 14 amended to read as follows: 2 15 1. The board of a merged area may change the number of 16 directors on the board and shall make corresponding changes in 2 17 the boundaries of director districts. Changes shall be 2 18 completed not later than June 1 for the regular school 2 19 election to be held the next following September 1 of the year

<u>20 of the regular school election</u>. As soon as possible after 2 21 adoption of the boundary changes, notice of changes in the 2 22 director district boundaries shall be submitted by the merged 2 23 area to the county commissioner of elections in all counties 2 24 included in whole or in part in the merged area. 2 25 Sec. 5. Section 260C.15, subsection 1, Code 2007, is 2 26 amended to read as follows: 2 27 1. Regular elections held annually by the merged area for 2 28 the election of members of the board of directors as required 2 29 by section 260C.11, for the renewal of the twenty and 2 30 one=fourth cents per thousand dollars of assessed valuation 2 31 levy authorized in section 260C.22, or for any other matter 2 32 authorized by law and designated for election by the board of 33 directors of the merged area, shall be held on the date of the 34 school election as fixed by section 277.1. The election 2 2 2 35 notice shall be made a part of the local school election 1 notice published as provided in section 49.53 in each local 3 3 2 school district where voting is to occur in the merged area 3 3 election and the election shall be conducted by the county 3 4 commissioner of elections pursuant to chapters 39 to through 3 53 and section 277.20. 5 3 Sec. 6. Section 260C.22, subsection 1, paragraph a, Code 6 3 7 2007, is amended to read as follows: 3 8 In addition to the tax authorized under section a. 3 260C.17, the voters in any <u>a</u> merged area may at the annual 9 3 10 regular school election vote a tax not exceeding twenty and 3 11 one=fourth cents per thousand dollars of assessed value in any 3 12 one year for a period not to exceed ten years for the purchase 3 13 of grounds, construction of buildings, payment of debts 3 14 contracted for the construction of buildings, purchase of 3 15 buildings and equipment for buildings, and the acquisition of 3 16 libraries, for the purpose of paying costs of utilities, and 3 17 for the purpose of maintaining, remodeling, improving, or 3 18 expanding the community college of the merged area. If the 3 19 tax levy is approved under this section, the costs of 3 20 utilities shall be paid from the proceeds of the levy. The 3 21 tax shall be collected by the county treasurers and remitted 3 22 to the treasurer of the merged area as provided in section 3 23 331.552, subsection 29. The proceeds of the tax shall be 3 24 deposited in a separate and distinct fund to be known as the 3 25 voted tax fund, to be paid out upon warrants drawn by the 3 26 president and secretary of the board of directors of the 3 27 merged area district for the payment of costs incurred in 3 28 providing the school facilities for which the tax was voted. 3 29 Sec. 7. Section 273.8, subsections 1, 6, and 7, Code 2007, 3 30 are amended to read as follows: 3 31 1. BOARD OF DIRECTORS. The board of directors of an area 32 education agency shall consist of not less than five nor more 33 than nine members, each a resident of and elected in the 3 3 3 34 manner provided in this section from a director district that 3 35 is approximately equal in population to the other director 4 1 districts in the area education agency. Each director shall 2 serve a three-year four-year term which commences at the 4 4 3 organization meeting. 4 6. CHANGE IN DIRECTORS. The board of an area education 4 5 agency may change the number of directors on the board and 4 4 6 shall make corresponding changes in the boundaries of director districts. Changes shall be completed not later than July <u>September</u> 1 of a fiscal year the odd=numbered year for the 4 7 4 8 4 9 director district conventions to be held the following 4 10 September November 7. BOUNDARY LINE CHANGES. To the extent possible the 4 11 4 12 board shall provide that changes in the boundary lines of 4 13 director districts of area education agencies shall not 4 14 lengthen or diminish the term of office of a director of an 4 15 area education agency board. Initial terms of office shall be 4 16 set by the board so that as nearly as possible the terms of one=third <u>one=half</u> of the members expire <u>annually</u> <u>biennially</u>. Sec. 8. Section 273.8, subsection 2, paragraphs a and b, 4 17 4 18 4 19 Code 2007, are amended to read as follows: 4 20 a. Notice of the election shall be published by the area 4 21 education agency administrator not later than July September 4 22 15 of the odd=numbered year in at least one newspaper of 23 general circulation in the director district. The cost of 4 4 24 publication shall be paid by the area education agency. 4 2.5 b. A candidate for election to the area education agency 4 26 board shall file a statement of candidacy with the area 4 27 education agency secretary not later than August October 15 of 4 28 the odd=numbered year, on forms prescribed by the department 4 29 of education. The statement of candidacy shall include the 4 30 candidate's name, address, and school district. The list of

4 31 candidates shall be sent by the secretary of the area 4 32 education agency in ballot form by certified mail to the 4 33 presidents of the boards of directors of all school districts 34 within the director district not later than September November 4 35 1. In order for the ballot to be counted, the ballot must be 4 5 1 received in the secretary's office by the end of the normal 2 business day on September <u>November</u> 30 or be clearly postmarked 3 by an officially authorized postal service not later than 5 5 4 September November 29 and received by the secretary not later 5 5 5 than noon on the first Monday following September November 30. Sec. 9. Section 273.8, subsection 4, unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 2007, is amended to read as follows: 5 6 5 7 5 The board of directors of each area education agency shall 8 5 9 meet and organize at the first regular meeting in October of each year December following the regular school 5 10<u>election</u> at a 5 11 suitable place designated by the president. Directors whose 5 12 terms commence at the organization meeting shall qualify by 5 13 taking the oath of office required by section 277.28 at or 5 14 before the organization meeting. 5 15 Sec. 10. Section 274.7, Code 2007, is amended to read as 5 16 follows: 5 17 274.7 DIRECTORS. 5 18 The affairs of each school corporation shall be conducted 5 19 by a board of directors, the members of which in all community 5 20 or independent school districts shall be chosen for a term of 5 21 three four years. 5 2.2 Section 275.1, subsections 2 and 5, Code 2007, Sec. 11. 5 23 are amended to read as follows: 2. "Initial board" means the board of a newly reorganized 5 24 5 25 district that is selected pursuant to section 275.25 or 275.41 5 26 and functions until the organizational meeting following the 5 27 fourth third regular school election held after the effective 5 28 date of the reorganization. 5. "Regular board" means the board of a reorganized 5 29 5 30 district that begins to function at the organizational meeting 5 31 following the fourth third regular school election held after 5 32 the effective date of the school reorganization, and is 5 33 comprised of members who were elected to the current terms or 5 34 were appointed to replace members who were elected. 5 35 Sec. 12. Section 275.12, subsection 2, Code 2007, is б 1 amended to read as follows: 2. The petition filed under subsection 1 shall also state 6 2 3 the name of the proposed school district and the number of 6 4 directors which may be either five or seven and the method of 5 election of the school directors of the proposed district. 6 6 6 The method of election of the directors shall be one of the 6 б 7 following optional plans: 6 8 a. Election at large from the entire district by the 6 9 electors of the entire district. 6 10 b. Division of the entire school district into designated 11 geographical single director or multi=director subdistricts on б 6 12 the basis of population for each director, to be known as 6 13 director districts, each of which director districts shall be 6 14 represented on the school board by one or more directors who 6 15 shall be residents of the director district but who shall be 6 16 elected by the vote of the electors of the entire school 6 17 district. The boundaries of the director districts and the 6 18 area and population included within each district shall be 6 19 such as justice, equity, and the interests of the people may 6 20 require. Changes in the boundaries of director districts б 21 shall not be made during a period commencing sixty days prior 22 to the date of the <u>annual regular</u> school election. Insofa 23 far as may be practicable, the boundaries of the districts 6 Insofar As 6 24 shall follow established political or natural geographical 6 6 25 divisions. c. Election of not more than one=half of the total number 6 2.6 6 27 of school directors at large from the entire district and the 6 28 remaining directors from and as residents of designated 29 single=member or multimember director districts into which the б 6 30 entire school district shall be divided on the basis of 6 31 population for each director. In such case, all directors 6 32 shall be elected by the electors of the entire school 6 33 district. Changes in the boundaries of director districts 34 shall not be made during a period commencing sixty days prior 6 6 35 to the date of the annual regular school election. d. Division of the entire school district into designated 7 1 7 2 geographical single director or multi=director subdistricts on 7 3 the basis of population for each director, to be known as 4 director districts, each of which director districts shall be 7 7 5 represented on the school board by one or more directors who 7 6 shall be residents of the director district and who shall be

7 7 elected by the voters of the director district. Place of 8 voting in the director districts shall be designated by the 7 7 9 commissioner of elections. Changes in the boundaries of 7 10 director districts shall not be made during a period 7 11 commencing sixty days prior to the date of the annual regular 7 12 school election. 7 13 e. In districts having seven directors, election of three 7 14 directors at large by the electors of the entire district, one 7 15 no more than two at each annual regular school election, and 7 16 election of the remaining directors as residents of and by the 7 17 electors of individual geographic subdistricts established on 7 18 the basis of population and identified as director districts. 7 19 no more than two at each regular school election. Boundaries 7 20 of the subdistricts shall follow precinct boundaries, insofar 7 21 as far as practicable, and shall not be changed less than 7 22 sixty days prior to the annual regular school election. Sec. 13. Section 275.25, subsection 3, Code 2007, is 7 23 7 24 amended to read as follows: 7 3. The directors who are elected and qualify to serve 25 7 26 shall serve until their successors are elected and qualify. 7 27 At the special election, the <u>three</u> newly elected director 7 28 <u>directors</u> receiving the most votes shall be elected to serve 7 29 until the director's successor qualifies their successors <u>30 qualify</u> after the fourth third regular school election date 7 7 31 occurring after the effective date of the reorganization + and 7 32 the two newly elected directors receiving the next largest 7 33 number of votes shall be elected to serve until the directors' 7 34 successors qualify after the third second regular school 7 35 election date occurring after the effective date of the 8 1 reorganization; and the two newly elected directors receiving 2 the next largest number of votes shall be elected to serve 8 -3 until the directors' successors qualify after the second - 8 4 regular school election date occurring after the effective 8 5 date of the reorganization. However, in districts that 8 8 6 include all or a part of a city of fifteen thousand or more 7 population and in districts in which the proposition to 8 8 8 establish a new corporation provides for the election of seven 8 9 directors, the three newly elected directors receiving the 8 10 most votes shall be elected to serve until the directors' 8 11 successors qualify after the fourth regular school election 8 12 date occurring after the effective date of the reorganization 8 13 timelines specified in this subsection for the terms of office 8 14 apply to the four newly elected directors receiving the most 8 15 votes and then to the three newly elected directors receiving 8 16 the next largest number of votes. 8 17 Sec. 14. Section 275.37, Code Section 275.37, Code 2007, is amended to read as 8 18 follows: 8 19 275.37 INCREASE IN NUMBER OF DIRECTORS. 8 20 At the next succeeding annual regular school election in a 8 21 district where the number of directors has been increased from 8 22 five to seven, and directors are elected at large, there shall 8 23 be elected a director to succeed each incumbent director whose 8 24 term is expiring in that year, and two additional directors. 8 25 Upon organizing as required by section 279.1, either one or <u>26 two of</u> the newly elected director <u>directors</u> who received the 8 8 27 fewest votes in the election shall be assigned a term of 8 28 either one year or two years if <u>as</u> necessary in order that as 8 29 nearly as possible one=third one=half of the members of the 8 30 board shall be elected each year biennially. If some or all 8 31 directors are elected from director districts, the board shall 8 32 assign terms appropriate for the method of election used by 8 33 the district. 8 34 Sec. 15. Section 275.37A, Code 2007, is amended to read as 8 35 follows: 9 275.37A DECREASE IN NUMBER OF DIRECTORS. 9 1. A change from seven to five directors shall be effected 9 3 in a district at the first regular school election after 9 4 authorization by the voters in the following manner: 9 If at the first election in the district there are 5 a. 9 6 three four terms expiring, one director three directors shall 7 be elected. At the second election in that district, if two 9 8 <u>three</u> terms are expiring, two directors shall be elected. # 9 the third election in that district, if there are two terms 9 At 9 10 expiring, two directors shall be elected.
9 11 b. If at the first election there are two three terms
9 12 expiring, no two directors shall be elected. At the second 9 13 election in that district, if two <u>four</u> terms are expiring, two 9 14 <u>three</u> directors shall be elected. At the third election in 15 that district, if there are three terms expiring, three 16 directors shall be elected, two for three years and one for 9 9 17 one year. The newly elected director who received the fewest

18 votes in the election shall be assigned a term of one year. 19 If at the first election there are two terms expiring, 9 20 no directors shall be elected. At the second election in that 21 district, if three terms are expiring, three directors shall 0 9 22 be elected, two for three years and one for two years. The 9 23 newly elected director who received the fewest votes in the 9 24 election shall be assigned a term of two years. At the third 9 25 election in that district, if there are two terms expiring, 9 26 two directors shall be elected. 9 27 2. If some or all of the directors are elected from 9 28 director districts, the board shall devise a plan to reduce 9 29 the number of members so that as nearly as possible one-third 9 30 <u>one=half</u> of the members of the board shall be elected each 31 year <u>biennially</u> and so that each district will be continuously 9 9 32 represented. 9 33 Section 275.38, Code 2007, is amended to read as Sec. 16. 9 34 follows: 9 35 275.38 IMPLEMENTING CHANGED METHOD OF ELECTION. If change in the method of election of school directors is 10 10 2 approved at a regular or special school election, the 3 directors who were serving unexpired terms or were elected 4 concurrently with approval of the change of method shall serve 10 10 10 5 out the terms for which they were elected. If the plan 6 adopted is that described in section 275.12, subsection 2, 7 paragraph "b," "c," "d," or "e," "b", "c", "d", or "e", t 10 10 the 8 board shall at the earliest practicable time designate the 10 10 9 districts from which residents are to be elected as school 10 10 directors at each of the next three two succeeding annual 10 11 regular school elections, arranging so far as possible for 10 12 elections of directors as residents of the respective 10 13 districts to coincide with the expiration of terms of 10 14 incumbent members residing in those districts. If an increase 10 15 in the size of the board from five to seven members is 10 16 approved concurrently with the change in method of election of 10 17 directors, the board shall make the necessary adjustment in 10 18 the manner prescribed in section 275.37, as well as providing 10 19 for implementation of the districting plan under this section. 10 20 Sec. 17. Section 275.41, subsection 3, Code 2007, is Sec. 17. Section 275.41, subsection 3, Code 2007, is amended to read as follows: 10 21 3. Prior to the effective date of the reorganization, the 10 22 10 23 initial board shall approve a plan that commences at the 10 24 second first regular school election held after the effective 10 25 date of the merger and is completed at the fourth third 10 26 regular school election held after the effective date of the 10 27 merger, to replace the initial board with the regular board. 10 28 If the petition specifies a number of directors on the regular 10 29 board to be different from the number of directors on the 10 30 initial board, the plan shall provide that the number 10 31 specified in the petition for the regular board is in place by 10 32 the time the regular board is formed. The plan shall provide 10 33 that as nearly as possible one=third one=half of the members 34 of the board shall be elected each year biennially, and if a 10 10 35 special election was held to elect a member to create an odd 1 number of members on the board, the term of that member shall 11 11 2 end at the organizational meeting following the fourth third 3 regular school election held after the effective date. 11 11 4 Sec. 18. Section 277.1, Code 2007, is amended to read as 11 5 follows: 11 6 277.1 REGULAR ELECTION. 11 The regular election shall be held annually biennially on 7 the second first Tuesday after the first Monday in September 11 8 11 9 November of each odd=numbered year in each school district for 11 10 the election of officers of the district and merged area and 11 11 for the purpose of submitting to the voters any matter 11 12 authorized by law. 11 13 Sec. 19. Section 277.20, unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 11 14 2007, is amended to read as follows: 11 15 On the next Friday after the regular school election, the 11 16 The county board of supervisors shall canvass the returns made 11 17 to the county commissioner of elections from the several 11 18 precinct polling places and the absentee ballot counting 11 19 board, ascertain the result of the voting with regard to every 11 20 matter voted upon and cause a record to be made thereof as 11 21 required by section 50.24. Special elections held in school 11 22 districts shall be canvassed at the time and in the manner 11 23 required by that section. The board shall declare the results 11 24 of the voting for members of boards of directors of school 11 25 corporations nominated pursuant to section 277.4, and the 11 26 commissioner shall at once issue a certificate of election to 11 27 each person declared elected. The board shall also declare 11 28 the results of the voting on any public question submitted to

11 29 the voters of a single school district, and the commissioner 11 30 shall certify the result as required by section 50.27. 11 31 Sec. 11 32 follows: 11 33 277.2 Sec. 20. Section 277.25, Code 2007, is amended to read as 277.25 DIRECTORS IN NEW DISTRICTS. 11 34 At the first election in newly organized districts the 11 35 directors shall be elected as follows: 12 1 1. In districts having three directors, one director two $\frac{12}{12}$ directors shall be elected for one year, one for two years, and one for three four years. 3 12 4 2. In districts having five directors, two three shall be 12 5 elected for one year, two for two years, and one two for three 12 four years. 6 12 $\overline{3}$. In districts having seven directors, two four shall be 12 8 elected for one year, two for two years, and three for three 12 9 <u>four</u> years. 12 10 Section 278.2, unnumbered paragraph 2, Code 2007, Sec. 21. 12 11 is amended to read as follows: Petitions filed under this section shall be filed with the 12 12 12 13 secretary of the school board at least seventy=five days 12 14 before the date of the <u>annual regular</u> school election, if 12 15 question is to be included on the ballot at that election. if the 12 16 The petition shall include the signatures of the petitioners, 12 17 a statement of their place of residence, and the date on which 12 18 they signed the petition. 12 19 EFFECTIVE DATE AND TRANSITION PROVISIONS. Sec. 22. This 12 20 Act takes effect January 1, 2009. In order to accomplish the 12 21 transition from election of directors of community and 12 22 independent school districts, merged areas, and area education 12 23 agencies, annually for terms of three years each to the 12 24 election of such directors biennially for terms of four years 12 25 each, the following adjustments in terms and times of election 12 26 shall be made, notwithstanding other provisions of law: 12 27 1. The term of office for each director of a school 12 28 district, merged area, or area education agency board whose 12 29 term expires in the year 2009 shall expire at noon on January 12 30 2, 2010, and successors to these positions shall be elected at 12 31 the regular election in 2009, or in the case of an area 12 32 education agency, at the director district convention in 2009. 12 33 2. In school districts, merged areas, and area education 12 34 agencies having five=member boards of directors, the persons 12 35 elected as directors in 2008 who received the greatest and the 13 1 next greatest number of votes in that election shall serve 2 terms of three years each, and the other persons so elected 3 shall serve terms of one year each. 13 13 13 4 3. In school districts, merged areas, and area education 13 5 agencies having seven=member boards of directors, the persons 13 6 elected as directors in 2008 who received the greatest, the 7 next greatest, and the third greatest number of votes shall 13 13 8 serve terms of three years each, and the other persons so 9 elected shall serve terms of one year each. 13 13 10 4. In merged areas and area education agencies having more 13 11 than seven members, the persons elected as directors in 2008 13 12 who received the greatest, the next greatest, the third 13 13 greatest, and the fourth greatest number of votes shall serve 13 14 terms of three years each, and the other persons so elected 13 15 shall serve terms of one year each. 13 16 EXPLANATION This bill provides for the election of the directors of 13 17 13 18 local school districts and merged areas on the day of the 13 19 regular city election in November of odd=numbered years. Area 13 20 education agencies are required by law to hold their director 13 21 district conventions within two weeks of the regular school 13 22 election. Area education agency board directors are elected 13 23 at those conventions. In order to accomplish these purposes, 13 24 the bill changes the terms of directors from three to four 13 25 years and provides for a transition period. 13 26 The bill takes effect on January 1, 2009. 13 27 LSB 5622HH 82 13 28 sc/nh/8