

Senate File 2223 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 2223

BY CHELGREN

A BILL FOR

1 An Act providing for consolidation of area education agencies.

2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 273.23, subsection 1, Code 2018, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 1. A petition filed under section 273.21 or a reorganization
4 plan submitted in compliance with section 273.21A shall state
5 the number of directors on the initial board which shall be
6 either seven or nine directors. The petition or plan shall
7 specify the number of directors to be retained from each area,
8 and those numbers shall be proportionate to the populations
9 of the agencies. If the proportionate balance of directors
10 among the affected agencies specified in the petition or plan
11 is affected by school districts petitioning to be excluded
12 from the reorganization, or if the proposal specified in the
13 plan does not comply with the requirement for proportionate
14 representation, the state board shall modify the proposal.
15 However, all area education agencies affected shall retain at
16 least one member.

17 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. **273.21A Consolidation of area**
18 **education agencies.**

19 On and after July 1, 2019, the number of area education
20 agencies shall not exceed five. Area education agencies shall
21 reorganize as necessary to implement this requirement. Area
22 education agencies engaging in such reorganization shall be
23 contiguous. Sections 273.22 and 273.23 shall apply to such
24 reorganizations.

25 Sec. 3. IMPLEMENTATION. Area education agencies engaging
26 in initial reorganization pursuant to section 273.21A, as
27 enacted by this Act, shall complete the procedures described
28 in section 273.21, subsection 3, paragraphs "a" through
29 "g". However, reorganization plans shall be submitted to
30 the state board no later than January 1, 2019. The state
31 board shall review a reorganization plan and shall, prior to
32 March 15, 2019, either approve the plan as submitted, approve
33 the plan contingent upon compliance with the state board's
34 recommendations, or disapprove the plan. A contingently
35 approved plan shall be resubmitted with modifications to the

1 department not later than May 1, 2019. If one or more area
2 education agencies do not timely submit a reorganization plan,
3 the department of education shall, in consultation with such
4 agencies, prepare and approve a reorganization plan for such
5 agencies. An approved plan shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

6 EXPLANATION

7 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
8 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

9 This bill provides that the number of area education
10 agencies shall not exceed five on and after July 1, 2019.
11 There are currently nine area education agencies. The bill
12 requires area education agencies to reorganize as necessary to
13 implement this requirement and specifies that area education
14 agencies engaging in such reorganization shall be contiguous.
15 The bill provides that Code sections 273.22 and 273.23,
16 relating to the terms of employment of area education agency
17 employees and the organization of initial area education agency
18 boards, apply to such reorganizations.

19 The bill provides a timeline for the implementation of
20 reorganization of area education agencies by July 1, 2019.