

JAN 24 2005
EDUCATION

HOUSE FILE 118
BY GRANZOW

Passed House, Date _____ Passed Senate, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to school reorganization by allowing certain
2 landowners in a reorganizing school district to petition to
3 join a contiguous school district.

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

HF 118

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1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 275.17A PETITION TO JOIN
2 CONTIGUOUS SCHOOL DISTRICT.

3 1. For the school year commencing July 1, 2006, and each
4 succeeding school year, a person owning land within the
5 territory described in a petition filed in accordance with
6 section 275.12 may, within twenty days after the publication
7 of a board decision under section 275.15 or 275.16 or, if a
8 controversy arises and a party brings the controversy to the
9 department of education under section 275.16, within twenty
10 days after the decision of the department of education under
11 section 275.16, petition the appropriate area education agency
12 administrator to join a school district that is contiguous to
13 the person's land.

14 2. Any person owning land that is contiguous to the land
15 owned by a person who is eligible to file a petition to join a
16 contiguous school district in accordance with subsection 1 may
17 also file a petition to join the same school district within
18 the same time period specified in subsection 1.

19 3. The board of directors of a school district that
20 receives a petition to join the school district in accordance
21 with subsections 1 and 2 shall take action on the petition
22 within thirty days of the filing. Petitions shall be reviewed
23 on a first come, first served basis. Petitions may only be
24 approved until the property tax valuation of the land
25 described in the petitions exceeds ten percent of the property
26 tax valuation of the proposed reorganized area. If a petition
27 is approved by the board, the board shall notify the secretary
28 of state and the area education agency in the proposed
29 reorganized area of its approval within ten days of its action
30 and the secretary of state shall redraw the boundaries
31 specified for the proposed reorganized area to remove the land
32 area specified in the petition.

33 4. If the property tax valuation of the land excluded from
34 the proposed reorganized area in accordance with this section
35 reaches ten percent of the property tax valuation of the

1 proposed reorganized area, the area education agency in the
2 proposed reorganized area shall notify the board of directors
3 of the school district that the property tax valuation limit
4 specified in subsection 3 has been reached.

5 5. If the proposed reorganized area as redrawn by the
6 secretary of state is determined by the area education agency
7 board to comply with the plans which were adopted by the board
8 in accordance with section 275.5, the area education
9 administrator shall proceed as provided under section 275.18.

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EXPLANATION

11 This bill provides a process by which a landowner may
12 petition to join a contiguous school district when the
13 person's land is located within the boundaries of a school
14 district that is reorganizing.

15 Beginning July 1, 2006, a person owning land within the
16 territory described for a proposed reorganized area may file a
17 petition to join a school district that is contiguous to the
18 person's land and if the school district approves the request,
19 the land is excluded from the proposed reorganized area.

20 Further, the bill allows any other person whose land is
21 contiguous to that of the landowner whose land is contiguous
22 to the school district and who is eligible to file a petition
23 to join the contiguous school district, to file a petition to
24 join the same school district. A petition to join a
25 contiguous school district must be filed by the landowner
26 within 20 days after an area education agency board has held
27 hearings and issued a decision regarding any objections to the
28 reorganization or, if the decision of the board is appealed to
29 the department of education, within 20 days after the decision
30 of the department.

31 If the petition to join is approved by the school board,
32 the board shall notify the area education agency for the
33 reorganized area and the secretary of state of its approval
34 and the secretary of state shall redraw the boundaries
35 specified for the proposed reorganized area to remove the land

1 area specified in the petition to join and, if the redrawn
2 proposed reorganized area is determined by the area education
3 agency board to comply with the reorganization plans, the
4 administrator is directed to proceed with the reorganization
5 process.

6 However, the property tax valuation of the land excluded
7 from the proposed reorganized area in accordance with the bill
8 shall not exceed 10 percent of the property tax valuation of
9 the proposed reorganized area.

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