



**Hundredth Legislature - First Session - 2007
Committee Statement
LB 602**

Hearing Date: January 29, 2007
Committee On: Education

Introducer(s): (Raikes, 25)
Title: Establish election districts for educational service unit boards

Roll Call Vote – Final Committee Action:

- Advanced to General File
 - Advanced to General File with Amendments
 - X Indefinitely Postponed
-

Vote Results:

7	Yes	Senators Adams, Avery, Burling, Howard, Johnson, Kopplin, and Raikes
	No	
	Present, not voting	
1	Absent	Senator Ashford

Proponents:
Senator Ron Raikes
Brian L. Halstead

Representing:
Introducer
Nebraska Department of Education

Opponents:
William C. Ragan
Brian Hale
Jim Stock

Representing:
Self
Nebraska Association of School Boards
Educational Service Unit #3 / Nebraska
Association of School Boards

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

Legislative Bill 602 would require Educational Service Unit (E.S.U.) board members to be elected by election districts beginning in 2008.

A new section would require E.S.U. boards to divide the territory of the E.S.U. into twelve numbered election districts by December 31, 2007 and after each decennial census pursuant to § 32-553. The new election districts would apply beginning with the nomination and election of E.S.U. board members in 2008.

Section 32-515 would be amended by declaring that the terms of E.S.U. board members elected in 2008 to represent odd-numbered election districts would expire in 2011. The terms of members elected in 2008 to represent even-numbered election districts would expire in 2013. Successor members would be elected for 4 year terms. Language regarding candidates for county representation and at large representation would be deleted. A reference to § 79-1217 for qualifications would be clarified.

Section 32-607 would be amended by deleting language regarding candidates for county representation on E.S.U. boards.

Section 79-1201 would be amended by adding the new section to the Educational Service Units Act.

Section 79-1208 would be amended by requiring a plan for the establishment of new election districts in E.S.U. reorganization petitions.

Section 79-1212 would be amended by requiring the appointment of new board members for election districts, rather than counties, not represented by the board members of merging E.S.U.'s.

Section 79-1217 would be amended by limiting the current E.S.U. board structure to the time preceding the first Thursday after the first Tuesday in January 2009. Beginning on that date, the E.S.U. boards would be composed of one member elected to represent each election district. The vacancy provisions would recognize a requirement for the replacement board member to live in the election district to be represented. Provisions for the election of county representatives and at large representatives would be deleted.

Explanation of amendments, if any:

Senator Ron Raikes, Chairperson