



Hundredth Legislature - First Session - 2007
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 600

Chairperson: Ron Raikes
Committee: Education
Date of Hearing: January 29, 2007

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

Legislative Bill 600 would require the State Board of Education to adjust educational service unit (E.S.U.) boundaries when the boundaries do not align with the boundaries of member school districts. The measure would also clarify the provisions for the use of a hearing officer to conduct a public hearing on an E.S.U. reorganization petition.

A new section would provide that the State Board of Education would adjust the boundaries of any E.S.U. for which the boundaries do not align with the boundaries of the member school districts. The State Board would be required to make such adjustments on or before July 31 of each year beginning with July 31, 2007. The boundary adjustments would be required to align the boundaries of the E.S.U. with the boundaries of the member school districts as the school district boundaries existed on July 1 of that year. The adjustments would be referred to the appropriate county and E.S.U. officials to implement the adjustments and to make necessary changes in maps and tax records.

Section 79-1211 would be amended by replacing the requirement for a hearing officer to make a recommendation to the State Board of Education when conducting a public hearing on an E.S.U. reorganization petition. With the new provisions, the hearing officer would be required to issue a summary of the evidence presented and, if directed by the State Board, recommend a decision to the board. In addition to giving the State Board authority to decide whether or not to require a recommendation, the new provisions clarify that the recommendation would not be binding on the State Board.

The measure contains an emergency clause to allow for the July 31, 2007 implementation.

Principal Introducer:

Senator Ron Raikes