

ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2010
COMMITTEE STATEMENT (CORRECTED)
LB711

Hearing Date: Monday January 25, 2010
Committee On: Education
Introducer: Dierks
One Liner: Change interlocal agreement provisions relating to unified school systems

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File

Vote Results:

Aye: 8 Senators Adams, Ashford, Avery, Cornett, Giese, Haar, Howard, Sullivan

Nay:

Absent:

Present Not Voting:

Proponents:

Senator Cap Dierks
John Recknor

Randy Peck
Richard Patton

John Bonaiuto
Trudy Clark

Representing:

Introducer
Laurel-Concord Public School, Bloomfield Community School, Wausa Public School, Coleridge Community School
ESU 8
Superintendent of Laurel-Concord Public Schools, Coleridge Community Schools, Wynot Public Schools, Newcastle Public Schools
Nebraska Association of School Boards
Bruning-Davenport USD

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

Legislative Bill 711 would amend the provisions for unification in section 79-4,108. Unifications are local systems of school districts brought together through an interlocal agreement. Unifications are treated as single school districts for most purposes, except the calculation of formula needs for state aid and the election of school board members. The common general fund levy is determined by the unification board, but building funds and bonding are the responsibility of the individual school districts. The unification board is composed of school board members from participating districts. The changes contained in LB 711 would modify the provisions for the partial or complete termination of a unification and would allow new unifications to be formed.

Currently, districts are required to either merge with another district or continue in the unification with another district when a district withdraws or a unification dissolves. This requirement would be removed.

In addition, when a district withdraws or a unification dissolves under current law, the assets and liabilities are divided pursuant to a declaratory judgment. Those provisions would be replaced by a requirement to include the method or

methods for accomplishing a partial or complete termination of a unification and for disposing of assets and liabilities in the interlocal agreement. Existing requirements for the agreement are also restructured for clarity.

The State Committee for the Reorganization of School Districts is currently prohibited from approving new unifications after April 3, 2008. That prohibition would be removed, allowing for new unifications.

Greg Adams, Chairperson