



One Hundred First Legislature - First Session - 2009
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 281

Chairperson: Greg Adams
Committee: Education
Date of Hearing: February 3, 2009

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

LB 281 completes the reorganization process regarding the Learning Community and Educational Service Units. Two years ago, the Legislature required all Educational Service Units to have two or more members in order to maintain taxing authority. Last year, the Legislature specifically required the Department of Education to approve the movement from one ESU to another ESU within the learning community, and changed ESU funding for those ESUs within a learning community.

Currently, ESUs that represent one school district appoint their Boards. This bill would continue that practice when two school districts come together in the learning community to obtain services from a joint ESU.

This bill would continue the simplification created earlier when the Legislature permitted school districts in learning communities to join one another. It permits districts to appoint their ESU members from existing elected school board members, which decreases costs, decreases layers of government, maintains local control and is complimentary to the new Learning Community Coordinating Council which is partially elected and partially appointed. The people who know their district needs best would be promptly able to address them, in conjunction with the school districts and the Learning Community Coordinating Council, which whom they also already working closely.

Principal Introducer: _____
Senator Heath Mello