

ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2015
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB477

Hearing Date: Tuesday February 17, 2015
Committee On: Education
Introducer: Davis
One Liner: Change provisions relating to school districts maintaining the only public high school in a county

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

Vote Results:

Aye: 8 Senators Baker, Cook, Groene, Kolowski, Morfeld, Pansing Brooks, Schnoor, Sullivan
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting:

Verbal Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator Al Davis
Wayne Ruppert
Robert Christensen
Jon Habben

Representing:

Introducer
Loup County Public School
Loup COunty Public School Board of Education
Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

Legislative Bill 477 would amend section 79-499 by providing another exception to the requirement for school districts that have a fall membership or average daily membership of less than 25 students in grades 9-12 for 2 consecutive years to become a Class I school district through the order of the State Committee for the Reorganization of School Districts. The new exception would allow a Class II or III school district to continue operating a high school if:

1. The district maintains the only public high school in the county;
2. The fall membership and average daily membership for grades 9-12 is at least 15 students;
3. The plan currently required anytime the high school membership is less than 35 students provides a broad based curriculum as determined by the State Committee; and
4. A majority of voters annually approve the continued operation of the high school for the immediately following school year at a district-wide election held the 2nd Tuesday of November by whatever means the county conducts balloting.

The elections would need to be held during the second consecutive school year that the fall membership for grades 9-12 is less than 25 students and for each succeeding school year, unless the membership increases to at least 35 students.

If the ballot issue fails, the State Committee would dissolve the school district and attach the territory to other school district based on the preferences of each landowner. The preference would need to be provided in the required time and manner and indicate a district with a boundary contiguous to the district being dissolved. Landowners indicating a preference would also be required to sign a statement that children who might reside on the property, at the time of the

dissolution or in the future, would be expected to attend the district indicated as a preference. If a preference is not provided, the State Committee would transfer the property to one or more of the school districts with boundaries contiguous to the dissolving district in a manner that will create compact and contiguous districts and best serve children who might reside on the property, at the time of the dissolution or in the future.

Kate Sullivan, Chairperson