

**Fifty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 7, 2003**

HOUSE BILL NO. 1258
(Representatives N. Johnson, Froseth, Hawken)

AN ACT to amend and reenact sections 15.1-12-14 and 15.1-12-15 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to teachers' contracts in newly reorganized districts; and to declare an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 15.1-12-14 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

15.1-12-14. School district reorganization - School boards - Assumption of duties.

1. Upon approval of a reorganization plan by the electors, in accordance with section 15.1-12-11, a school board for the reorganized district must be elected at the next regular school district election or at a special election called by the county superintendent of schools for that purpose. The first school board election in a newly reorganized district is governed by chapter 15.1-09.
2. Members of newly formed school boards representing reorganized districts may not enter upon the duties of office until the time specified in section 15.1-12-18, except as provided in sections 15.1-12-15 and 15.1-12-16. Before the completion of a reorganization, the board of an existing district may not contract or obligate the district, except with the approval of the county committee or unless authorized by law.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT. Section 15.1-12-15 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

15.1-12-15. School district reorganization - School board - Duties.

1. The board of a reorganized school district established under this chapter shall negotiate with the district's teachers and may contract with the teachers' representative organization prior to the effective date of the reorganization.
2. Upon the completion of negotiations and the signing of a negotiated agreement under subsection 1, the board may offer contracts of employment to individual teachers and establish a time certain by which the individual teachers must accept or reject the offers.
3. If by five p.m. on July first of the year the reorganized district begins operations, a negotiated agreement has not been entered between the board and the teachers pursuant to statute, no teacher employed by the board may receive less in salary and benefits than that teacher received for the preceding school year. For purposes of this section, "salary and benefits" means salary, insurance benefits, teachers' fund for retirement contributions, personal leave, sick leave, accumulated sick leave, extracurricular salary, reduction-in-force policy, grievance procedures, and recall procedures.
- ~~2-~~ 4. On or before February first of the year in which the reorganization becomes effective, the board of the reorganized school district shall hold a public hearing to present the curriculum, course offerings, and staff positions to be available during the coming school year. The board shall publish notice of the hearing in the official newspaper of each county having land in the reorganized district, at least fourteen days before the date of the hearing.

3. 5. By five p.m. on April fifteenth of the year in which the reorganization becomes effective, the board of the reorganized school district shall notify in writing each teacher employed by the districts being reorganized, whether or not the teacher will be offered a contract of employment with the reorganized district.

SECTION 3. EMERGENCY. This Act is declared to be an emergency measure.

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that the within bill originated in the House of Representatives of the Fifty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as House Bill No. 1258 and that two-thirds of the members-elect of the House of Representatives voted in favor of said law.

Vote: Yeas 94 Nays 0 Absent 0

Speaker of the House

Chief Clerk of the House

This certifies that two-thirds of the members-elect of the Senate voted in favor of said law.

Vote: Yeas 46 Nays 0 Absent 1

President of the Senate

Secretary of the Senate

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 2003.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 2003.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2003,
at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State