

Fifty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2333

Introduced by

Senators Grindberg, Cook, Espegard

Representatives Aarsvold, Haas, R. Kelsch

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact three new sections to chapter 15.1-07 of the North
2 Dakota Century Code, relating to the provision of educational services by school districts; and
3 to amend and reenact sections 15.1-12-26 and 15.1-31-07 of the North Dakota Century Code,
4 relating to the dissolution of school districts and attendance in schools in bordering states.

5 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

6 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 15.1-07 of the North Dakota Century Code is
7 created and enacted as follows:

8 **School district - Provision of educational services - Required reorganization -**
9 **Dissolution.**

- 10 1. Each school district in this state shall offer educational services to students from
11 kindergarten through grade twelve.
- 12 2. If a school district fails to meet the requirements of subsection 1, the
13 superintendent of public instruction shall notify the superintendent of the school
14 district and the president of the school board that the school district must pursue
15 reorganization as provided for in chapter 15.1-12.1.
- 16 3. If the school district fails to become reorganized within eighteen months from the
17 notification required by the superintendent of public instruction under subsection 2,
18 the superintendent of public instruction shall direct a county committee to initiate
19 proceedings to dissolve the district and attach the property to other operating high
20 school districts.

21 **SECTION 2.** A new section to chapter 15.1-07 of the North Dakota Century Code is
22 created and enacted as follows:

23 **Closure of elementary school - Vote.** Notwithstanding the provisions of any other
24 law, before the board of a newly reorganized school district may close an elementary school

1 located within the boundary of a district that participated in a reorganization under section 1 of
2 this Act, the board shall place the question of closing the elementary school on the ballot. The
3 question may be voted upon only by those qualified electors who reside within the boundary of
4 the district that participated in the reorganization under section 1 of this Act. The board may
5 not close the elementary school unless a majority of the qualified electors voting on the
6 question approve the closure. This section applies only to the closure of an elementary school
7 that was operational on the day before the effective date of the reorganization.

8 **SECTION 3.** A new section to chapter 15.1-07 of the North Dakota Century Code is
9 created and enacted as follows:

10 **School district - Required reorganization - Mill levy.** Notwithstanding the provisions
11 of any other law:

12 1. During the first year after a school district becomes reorganized, as required by
13 section 1 of this Act, the property within the boundaries of the district that did not
14 offer educational services to students from kindergarten through grade twelve may
15 not be subject to a total school district general fund and special fund mill levy that
16 is greater than the total school district general fund and special fund mill levy
17 applicable to such property during the taxable year immediately preceding the
18 reorganization plus one-fourth of the difference between that amount and the total
19 school district general fund and special fund mill levy applicable to all other taxable
20 property in the reorganized district.

21 2. During the second year after a school district becomes reorganized, as required by
22 section 1 of this Act, the property within the boundaries of the district that did not
23 offer educational services to students from kindergarten through grade twelve may
24 not be subject to a total school district general fund and special fund mill levy that
25 is greater than the total school district general fund and special fund mill levy
26 applicable to such property during the preceding taxable year plus one-half of the
27 difference between that amount and the total school district general fund and
28 special fund mill levy applicable to all other taxable property in the reorganized
29 district.

30 3. During the third year after a school district becomes reorganized, as required by
31 section 1 of this Act, the property within the boundaries of the district that did not

1 offer educational services to students from kindergarten through grade twelve may
2 not be subject to a total school district general fund and special fund mill levy that
3 is greater than the total school district general fund and special fund mill levy
4 applicable to such property during the preceding taxable year plus three-fourths of
5 the difference between that amount and the total school district general fund and
6 special fund mill levy applicable to all other taxable property in the reorganized
7 district.

8 4. During the fourth year after a school district becomes reorganized, as required by
9 section 1 of this Act, the property within the boundaries of the district that did not
10 offer educational services to students from kindergarten through grade twelve must
11 be subject to the same total school district general fund and special fund mill levy
12 applicable to all other taxable property in the reorganized district.

13 **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-12-26 of the North Dakota Century Code is
14 amended and reenacted as follows:

15 **15.1-12-26. Dissolution of school district - Grounds.**

16 1. A county committee shall initiate proceedings to dissolve a school district and
17 attach the property to other operating school districts when it is notified in writing
18 by the county superintendent of schools whose jurisdiction includes the
19 administrative headquarters of the district that:

20 a. The district is financially unable to effectively and efficiently educate its
21 students;

22 b. The district has not operated a school as required by section 15.1-12-24; or

23 c. A school board has determined that dissolution is in the best interest of its
24 students.

25 2. A county committee shall initiate proceedings to dissolve a school district and
26 attach the property to other operating high school districts when it is notified in
27 writing by the superintendent of public instruction that the district does not provide
28 or has ceased to provide educational services to students from kindergarten
29 through grade twelve.

- 1 ~~3.~~ 3. Except as provided in subsection ~~3~~ 4, a county committee shall initiate
2 proceedings under section 15.1-12-27 to attach real property to an operating
3 school district when it is notified in writing by the county superintendent that:
4 a. Real property has been severed from its school district by the expansion of a
5 city and the severed portion is not contiguous with its district; or
6 b. There exists real property that does not belong to a school district.
- 7 ~~3.~~ 4. If a school district reorganization plan which does not include all real property in a
8 district is approved by the electors, the county committee shall, within forty-five
9 days after the election, hold a hearing under section 15.1-12-29 to attach the
10 remaining property to one or more operating districts.
- 11 ~~4.~~ 5. Receipt of notice by a county committee under this section:
12 a. Renders an annexation petition involving any real property in the district void,
13 unless the annexation has already been approved by the state board; and
14 b. Prohibits the acceptance of a new annexation petition involving any real
15 property in the district until all dissolution proceedings have been completed.
- 16 ~~5.~~ 6. One or more annexation petitions may not be used to annex all of the real property
17 in a school district to surrounding school districts.

18 **SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-31-07 of the North Dakota Century Code is
19 amended and reenacted as follows:

20 **15.1-31-07. Students not subject to this chapter.** If a student, as a result of a school
21 district dissolution or reorganization, resides in a district other than the one the student chooses
22 to attend at the time of the dissolution or reorganization, the student is not subject to this
23 chapter and may attend school in the chosen school district, including a school district in a
24 bordering state. Notwithstanding section 15.1-28-03, the superintendent of public instruction
25 shall forward payments from the state tuition fund made on behalf of the student to the
26 student's chosen school district, unless the chosen school district is in a bordering state. The
27 student may not be considered a student in average daily membership in the student's school
28 district of residence for purposes of section 15.1-31-02.