

ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2017
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB377

Hearing Date: Tuesday January 31, 2017
Committee On: Education
Introducer: Education
One Liner: Change provisions relating to classification of school districts

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

Vote Results:

Aye: 8 Senators Ebke, Erdman, Groene, Kolowski, Linehan, Morfeld, Pansing
Brooks, Walz

Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting:

Verbal Testimony:

Proponents:

LaMont Rainey
Brian Halstead
Jon Habben

Representing:

Education Committee Legal Counsel
Nebraska Department of Education
Self

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 377 would eliminate three of the current six school classifications. The three classifications being eliminated under this act are: Class I, Class II and Class VI school districts. This change would classify all Nebraska Public Schools as either a Class III, Class IV or Class V school district, with Lincoln Public Schools remaining as the only Class IV and Omaha Public Schools remaining as the only Class V.

The six school classifications were implemented in 1949 when Nebraska had over 6,500 school districts, today we have 245 school districts. The qualifications for receiving one of the six classifications under current statutes are:

- Class I which are a district with only elementary grades under a single school board;
 - Class II which are a district with one thousand (1,000) or less inhabitants that maintains both elementary and high school grades under a single school board;
 - Class III which are a district with more than one thousand (1,000) but less one hundred fifty thousand (150,000) inhabitants that maintains both elementary and high school grades under a single school board;
 - Class IV which are a district with a city of the primary class that maintains both elementary and high school grades under a single school board;
 - Class V which are a district that has a city of the metropolitan class and whose employees participate in a retirement system established under the Class V retirement act that maintains both elementary and high school grades under a single school board; and
 - Class VI which are districts that maintain only high school grades under a single school board.
-

LB 377 also eliminates the minimum inhabitant language from the definition of Class III school districts so that the 18 current Class II school districts automatically become Class III school districts upon the effective date of the bill.

The current number of school districts for each class of school district is as follows:

Class VI school district 0 (since 6/15/2006)

Class V school district 1 Omaha Public Schools

Class IV school district 1 Lincoln Public Schools

Class III school district 225 school districts

Class II school district 18 school districts

Class I school district 0 (since 6/15/2006)

Total # school districts 245

Mike Groene, Chairperson