

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0199

School district reorganization.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Harshman, Buchanan and Shepperson and Senator(s) Von Flatern

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to school district organization; providing  
2 for the countywide organization of districts as specified;  
3 establishing county committees for this purpose; imposing a  
4 consolidation planning process and reporting requirements;  
5 specifying reorganization implementation and time of  
6 implementation; imposing duties upon the state committee;  
7 incorporating district reorganization into 2010 block grant  
8 model recalibration; and providing for an effective date.

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10 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

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12 **Section 1.** W.S. 21-6-301 through 21-6-303 are created  
13 to read:

14

15

ARTICLE 3

16

SCHOOL DISTRICT REORGANIZATION

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2       **21-6-301. Definitions.**

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4       (a) As used in this article:

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6               (i) "County committee" means the county planning  
7 committee for the consolidation of school districts in  
8 accordance with this article;

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10              (ii) "Plan of consolidation" means a plan which  
11 would place all the territory of a county into one (1)  
12 unified school district with boundaries identical to those  
13 of the county in which it is located;

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15              (iii) "State committee" means as defined in W.S.  
16 21-6-202(a)(ii);

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18              (iv) "Unified school district" means as defined  
19 in W.S. 21-6-202(a)(iv).

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21       **21-6-302. County planning committees; membership;**  
22 **duties.**

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1           (a) By September 1, 2009, the board of trustees of  
2 each school district within each county comprised of more  
3 than one (1) school district shall elect one (1) registered  
4 voter from each school district to be a member of a county  
5 committee to review the consolidation of the school  
6 districts within that county. In those counties with five  
7 (5) or less districts, two (2) members shall be elected  
8 from each district.

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10           (b) Each member of the district boundary board of  
11 each county or counties established under W.S. 21-6-203  
12 shall be an ex officio member of the county committee  
13 without voting privileges.

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15           (c) Each county planning committee shall:

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17           (i) Prepare and submit to the state committee  
18 before September 1, 2010, a report on consolidation and a  
19 plan of reorganization conforming to the criteria and  
20 procedures specified in this article for the reorganization  
21 of school districts within the county, to be effective July  
22 1, 2011;

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1           (ii) Hold at least one (1) public hearing within  
2 the county on its proposal for the reorganization plan.  
3 Notice of each hearing shall be published in a newspaper of  
4 general circulation in the county at least once each week  
5 for the two (2) week period immediately preceding the time  
6 set for the hearing. The notice shall contain a statement  
7 of the time and place of the hearing and a brief summary of  
8 its purpose. In addition, at least ten (10) days and not  
9 more than fourteen (14) days before the hearing, a copy of  
10 the notice shall be sent to each school district trustee  
11 residing in the area involved in the hearing;

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13           (iii) Include in the report to the state  
14 committee its determination of the feasibility of  
15 consolidation, necessary incentives to encourage voluntary  
16 consolidation and obstacles to consolidation. This portion  
17 of the report shall also be submitted by the county  
18 committee to members of the legislature;

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20           (iv) The report shall include the proposed  
21 consolidation plan and the following:

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23           (A) Recommendations on the location of  
24 schools, the utilization of existing buildings, allocation

1 of existing indebtedness, the employment of existing  
2 personnel and the transportation requirements under the  
3 proposed plan for the organization of the reorganized  
4 district, together with the time period under which  
5 recommendations are to be accomplished;

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7 (B) A summary of the reasons for the plan;

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9 (C) A record of all hearings;

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11 (D) A summary of any anticipated  
12 modifications to educational programs;

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14 (E) The number of trustees and the manner  
15 of trustee selection for a countywide unified school  
16 district;

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18 (F) The proposed time schedule for school  
19 district reorganization under the plan;

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21 (G) The extent to which consolidation may  
22 result in a reduction in total federal revenues available  
23 to the reorganized district as compared with that available  
24 to all existing districts within the county. The report

1 shall include recommendations to minimize the impact of  
2 reorganization on the availability of federal revenue; and

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4 (H) Other reports, records and materials as  
5 the county committee or the state committee deems  
6 necessary.

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8 **21-6-303. Powers and duties of state committee.**

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10 (a) The state committee shall:

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12 (i) Aid the several county committees in  
13 carrying out this article by furnishing state department of  
14 education staff assistance as authorized by the state  
15 superintendent, and providing plans of procedure,  
16 standards, data, maps and other information and services to  
17 the county committees as necessary to carry out the  
18 purposes of this article;

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20 (ii) By October 1, 2009, appoint a county  
21 committee in any county in which a county committee is not  
22 elected as required by this article;

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1           (iii) By October 1, 2010, develop a plan for the  
2 reorganization of the school districts within a county for  
3 which a plan has not been submitted in accordance with this  
4 article. The plan shall conform to the criteria and  
5 procedures specified under W.S. 21-6-302 for implementation  
6 on July 1, 2011.

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8           (b) Within sixty (60) days of the date of receipt,  
9 review the submitted plan for reorganization and approve or  
10 reject the submitted plan with reasons for rejection and  
11 recommendations for making the plan acceptable. A plan  
12 shall be rejected only if it fails to comply with the  
13 provisions of this article. If a plan is rejected, a  
14 county committee may resubmit a modified plan as often as  
15 necessary. Upon plan approval, the state committee shall  
16 make an order establishing the reorganized, countywide  
17 school district according to the approved plan of  
18 organization, effective July 1, 2011. The order is the  
19 final administrative determination and shall be filed with  
20 the county clerk of the appropriate county prior to July 1,  
21 2011. The order shall be effective and binding on July 1,  
22 2011. The final administrative action of the state  
23 committee shall be appealable from the date of filing with  
24 the county clerk.

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**Section 2.** The reorganization plans developed and submitted under section 1 of this act shall be incorporated into the 2010 recalibration of the education resource block grant model undertaken pursuant to W.S. 21-13-309(t) and shall guide school finance recommendations submitted to the 2011 legislature.

**Section 3.** This act is effective July 1, 2009.

(END)