

## HOUSE BILL NO. HB0147

School districts-reorganization.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Illoway

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to school district organization; providing  
2 for the reorganization of existing school districts within  
3 the state as specified; establishing county committees for  
4 this purpose; imposing a consolidation planning process and  
5 reporting requirements; imposing duties upon the state  
6 superintendent and state board of education; and providing  
7 for an effective date.

8

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

10

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

13

14

ARTICLE 3

15

SCHOOL DISTRICT REORGANIZATION

16

17 **21-6-301. Definitions.**

1

2 (a) As used in this article:

3

4 (i) "County committee" means the county planning  
5 committee for the reorganization of school districts in  
6 accordance with this article;

7

8 (ii) "Reorganization plan" means:

9

10 (A) For all but Fremont County, Wyoming, a  
11 plan which places all the territory of a county into one  
12 (1) unified district with boundaries identical to those of  
13 the county in which it is located; or

14

15 (B) For purposes of Fremont County,  
16 Wyoming, and to reorganize territory within the state under  
17 the jurisdiction of the joint business council of the  
18 Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapahoe Indian Tribes, a  
19 plan which reorganizes the area within the county as  
20 follows:

21

22 (I) All areas within the county under  
23 the jurisdiction of the joint business council of the

1 Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapahoe Indian Tribes shall  
2 be divided into two (2) unified school districts;

3

4 (II) All remaining areas within the  
5 county not under the jurisdiction of the joint business  
6 council of the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapahoe  
7 Indian Tribes shall be comprised of one (1) unified school  
8 district.

9

10 (iii) "State committee" means as defined in W.S.  
11 21-6-202(a)(ii);

12

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

15

16 **21-6-302. County planning committees; membership;**  
17 **meetings; expenses; duties.**

18

19 (a) Not later than September 1, 2007, and except as  
20 provided under subsection (b) of this section, the boards  
21 of trustees of each school district within each county with  
22 more than one (1) school district shall elect two (2)  
23 registered voters from each school district within the

1 county to be members of a county committee to review the  
2 reorganization of the school districts within the county.

3

4 (b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section,  
5 and not later than September 1, 2007:

6

7 (i) The boards of trustees of each school  
8 district located in areas within Fremont County, Wyoming,  
9 under the jurisdiction of the joint business council of the  
10 Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapahoe Indian Tribes,  
11 together with members of the joint business council, shall  
12 elect one (1) registered voter from each school district  
13 within such area and one (1) registered voter from each  
14 Indian tribe comprising the joint business council, to be  
15 members of a county committee to review the reorganization  
16 of the school districts within this area of Fremont County;

17

18 (ii) The boards of trustees of each school  
19 district located in areas within Fremont County, Wyoming,  
20 which are not under the jurisdiction of the joint business  
21 council of the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapahoe  
22 Indian Tribes shall elect two (2) registered voters from  
23 each school district within this area to be members of a

1 county committee to review reorganization of the school  
2 districts within this area of Fremont County.

3  
4 (c) Each county committee shall organize by electing  
5 from its membership a chairman. Meetings of the committee  
6 shall be held upon the call of the chairman or by a  
7 majority of committee members. A majority of committee  
8 members constitutes a quorum for purposes of transacting  
9 business but no plan or report shall be adopted under this  
10 article except upon the affirmative vote of a majority of  
11 the committee.

12  
13 (d) Members of county committees shall serve without  
14 compensation but shall be reimbursed from their respective  
15 school districts, including all members selected under  
16 paragraph (b)(i) of this section, for actual and necessary  
17 travel and expenses incurred in the performance of their  
18 duties.

19  
20 (e) Each county planning committee shall:

21  
22 (i) Prepare and submit to the state committee  
23 before September 1, 2008, a report on consolidation and a  
24 plan of reorganization conforming to the criteria and

1 procedures specified by this article for the reorganization  
2 of school districts within its jurisdiction;

3

4 (ii) Hold at least one (1) public hearing within  
5 the county or area of jurisdiction within a county, as  
6 appropriate, on its proposal for the reorganization plan.  
7 Notice of public hearing shall be published in a newspaper  
8 of general circulation in the county or area within a  
9 county at least once each week for the two (2) weeks  
10 immediately preceding the date set for hearing, stating the  
11 time, location and purpose of the hearing. In addition, at  
12 least ten (10) days and not more than fourteen (14) days  
13 before the hearing, a copy of the notice shall be sent to  
14 each school district trustee residing within the area  
15 involved in the reorganization plan and the hearing;

16

17 (iii) Include in the report to the state  
18 committee its determination of the feasibility of  
19 consolidation of school districts within the county or  
20 portion of a county, necessary incentives to encourage  
21 voluntary consolidation and obstacles to consolidation.  
22 This portion of the report shall also be submitted by the  
23 county committee to members of the joint education interim

1 committee and the joint appropriations interim committee of  
2 the legislature;

3

4 (iv) The report shall include a suggested  
5 consolidation plan with:

6

7 (A) Recommendations on the location of  
8 schools, the utilization of existing buildings, allocation  
9 of existing indebtednesses, the employment of existing  
10 personnel and the transportation requirements under the  
11 proposed plan for the organization of the unified school  
12 district, together with the time period under which  
13 recommendations are to be accomplished;

14

15 (B) A summary of the rational for the plan;

16

17 (C) A record of all hearings;

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19 (D) A summary of any anticipated  
20 modification and improvement to provision of the required  
21 statewide educational program prescribed by W.S. 21-9-101  
22 and 21-9-102;

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1                   (E) The number of trustees for the  
2 reorganized school district and the manner of trustee  
3 selection;

4

5                   (F) The proposed effective date for school  
6 district reorganization under the plan;

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8                   (G) The extent to which consolidation may  
9 result in reduction in total federal revenues available to  
10 the reorganized district as compared with that available to  
11 all existing districts within the county or portion of a  
12 county. The report shall include recommended legislation  
13 to minimize the impact of reorganization on the  
14 availability of federal revenue; and

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16                   (H) Other reports, records and materials  
17 the county committee or the state committee determines to  
18 be necessary.

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20           **21-6-303. State committee; powers and duties.**

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22           (a) The state committee shall:

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1           (i) Assist the county committees in carrying out  
2 duties and responsibilities imposed under this article  
3 through assistance from the state department of education,  
4 as authorized by the state superintendent, and from the  
5 school facilities commission as authorized by the director  
6 of the commission, in the provision of necessary plans of  
7 procedure, standards, data, maps, facility guidelines and  
8 other information and services to the county committee as  
9 necessary to develop district reorganization reports and  
10 plans;

11

12           (ii) By October 1, 2007, appoint a county  
13 committee in any county in which a county committee is not  
14 elected as required by this article;

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16           (iii) By October 1, 2008, compile county  
17 committee reports and plans submitted under this article  
18 and report the compilation together with findings,  
19 recommendations and enabling legislation to members of the  
20 joint education interim committee and joint appropriations  
21 interim committee of the legislature. The legislative  
22 service office shall assist the state committee in drafting  
23 any required legislation.

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1       **Section 2.** This act is effective July 1, 2007.

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3 (END)