

HB 1035 -- ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS

SPONSOR: Johnson

This bill changes the laws regarding school board members in the St. Joseph School District.

The bill specifies that a school board member in the St. Joseph School District may be removed by the voters in a recall election. The recall election must be held upon the submission of a petition signed by at least 10% of the number of persons who voted in the last school board election. The petition must be filed with the election authority and the secretary of the district board of education and must contain a general statement of the grounds for which the removal is sought. The individual filing the petition with the election authority must sign an affidavit that the signatures attached are true and correct to the best of his or her knowledge.

The election authority must verify whether the petition is signed by the required number of voters within 30 days from the date of filing the petition. If the petition is sufficient, the election authority must submit the petition to the school board without delay. The election must be held not less than 45 days but not more than 120 days from the date the board receives the petition.

If a majority of voters vote to retain the school board member at issue, the member must remain in office and cannot be subject to another recall election during his or her term. If a majority of voters vote to remove the member, the successor member must be chosen in the same manner as vacancies are filled in urban school districts.

Currently, the St. Joseph School District school board members serve a term of six years. The bill establishes that, upon expiration of any term after August 28, 2015, the term of office must be for four years.

The bill specifies that a candidate for school board in the St. Joseph School District must not be required to submit a petition with signatures but must file a declaration of candidacy with the board secretary.

The bill contains an emergency clause.