

HB 2609 -- SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS

SPONSOR: Unsicker

This bill establishes a process for the annexation of two adjacent special school districts.

If requested by a petition, signed by the specified number of voters from the school district proposing the annexation, the school board of the district shall submit the question to the voters of the district. If a majority of the votes cast in the special school district proposing annexation favor annexation, the secretary of the board shall certify the fact. Once the Board of the Special School District to which annexation is proposed is notified of the proposed annexation, that district must submit the question to the voters in the district.

For any newly created special school district with more than 100,00 inhabitants, the membership of the governing council shall be expanded and redistricting guidelines are specified in the bill.

The newly formed special school district must adopt a resolution forming a redistricting committee every decade after the decennial census has been reported, as specified in the bill. The proposed redistricting plan must be approved by a majority of the committee prior to its adoption. Upon adoption a copy of the plan certified by the secretary of the committee must be sent to the State Board of Education(SBE) for its approval or disapproval. Criteria for approval is specified in the bill. If a redistricting plan is not adopted within one year of the publication of the census the SBE shall provide the redistricting plan. The bill specifies that a member of redistricting committee shall not serve on the school board for a period of six years following his or her service on the redistricting committee.

Within 30 days of the adoption of a redistricting plan, the SBE shall call for a special election for school board members of the new special school district.

This bill is similar to HB 2569 (2020)