

HOUSE BILL REPORT

HB 2154

As Reported by House Committee On:
Education

Title: An act relating to election dates for educational service district board members.

Brief Description: Regarding election dates for educational service district board members.

Sponsors: Representatives Fromhold, Priest, P. Sullivan, Quall, Kenney and Moeller; by request of Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Education: 2/23/07 [DP].

Brief Summary of Bill

- Changes the date of elections for boards of Educational Service Districts with one or more members whose terms expire the following January from even-numbered years to odd-numbered years.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Majority Report: Do pass. Signed by 9 members: Representatives Quall, Chair; Barlow, Vice Chair; Priest, Ranking Minority Member; Anderson, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Haigh, McDermott, Roach, Santos and P. Sullivan.

Staff: Anne Woodward (786-7119) and Barbara McLain (786-7383).

Background:

Prior to 2006, the State Board of Education's (SBE) statutory duties included conducting Educational Service District (ESD) elections. Elections of the ESD board members were held every odd-numbered year in the ESDs in which a board member's term expired the following January. The ESD board members hold four-year terms, and are elected on a rotating cycle. The SBE was also required to: (1) provide notice of the election to each member of the board of directors in each school district in the ESD; and (2) establish instructions and rules for the conduct of the election.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

In 2006 the Legislature transferred certain duties from the SBE to the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI). This included giving the SPI the responsibility to conduct elections for the ESD board members. The SPI is directed to call an election by August 25 of every even-numbered year in each ESD with a member of the board whose term of office expires the following January. In addition, the SPI is responsible for providing notice and for establishing instructions and rules.

Summary of Bill:

The date of elections for educational service districts with one or more members whose terms expire the following January is changed from even-numbered years to odd-numbered years.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

(In support) Elections were traditionally held in odd-numbered years to fill positions which expired the following even-numbered year in January. When duties for holding elections were transferred to the SPI in 2006, the law required the SPI to hold elections in even-numbered years. This is difficult since the terms expire in even-numbered years. The law should be changed back to odd-numbered years in order to keep the election process on track and allow the SPI to call an election this year.

(Opposed) None.

Persons Testifying: (In support) Charles Schreck, Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.