

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 368

Introduced by Day, 49.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this resolution is to propose an interim study to examine the process for school districts to change the boundaries of individual schools within their districts. Given that many families move specifically to be near a certain school within a greater school district, the decision to change boundaries can upend planning for families and affect numerous relationships between students, teachers, and staff. Boundary changes involve a decision-making process that can be difficult; however, changes are often necessary to facilitate growth within a school district. Parents should have the opportunity to voice their concerns and have full transparency regarding the process for changing school boundaries within a school district that determines which school their children will attend.

Currently, the process for school district boundary changes is governed by section 79-413. This interim study is meant to evaluate whether some of the process for school district boundary changes, such as notification to parents, should be replicated in school boundary changes within a district.

The interim study shall include, but need not be limited to, an examination of:

(1) The processes that school districts in Nebraska use for interdistrict school boundary changes;

(2) Statutes in other states relating to school boundary changes within a single school district;

(3) Ways to facilitate communication between parents and school districts when school boundary changes are being considered;

(4) How much advanced communication should be given to parents;

(5) Strategies to increase transparency for school boundary changes; and

(6) Public meeting laws in Nebraska, and whether school boundary changes should require an opportunity for public comment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That the Education Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.