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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 3030**

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**State of Washington                      55th Legislature                      1998 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Talcott, Smith and Bush)

Read first time 02/05/98. Referred to Committee on .

1            AN ACT Relating to school district boundaries; amending RCW  
2 28A.315.140, 28A.315.180, and 28A.315.250; adding a new section to  
3 chapter 28A.315 RCW; and providing an effective date.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.315  
6 RCW to read as follows:

7            (1) Whenever school district boundary changes are made under this  
8 chapter, the state board may authorize a transition period of up to  
9 three years to implement the boundary changes to avoid undue hardship  
10 and make the transition as efficient as possible. The appropriate  
11 educational service district superintendent shall develop a boundary  
12 change implementation plan, detailing:

13            (a) The reason or reasons for the necessity of a transition period;  
14 and

15            (b) The steps and timetable for transferring operational  
16 responsibility for the education and transportation of students living  
17 within the territory transferred.

18            (2) The state board may adopt rules implementing this section.

1       **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.315.140 and 1990 c 33 s 300 are each amended to  
2 read as follows:

3       The powers and duties of the state board with respect to this  
4 chapter shall be:

5       (1) To aid regional committees in the performance of their duties  
6 by furnishing them with plans of procedure, standards, data, maps,  
7 forms, and other necessary materials and services essential to a study  
8 and understanding of the problems of school district organization in  
9 their respective educational service districts.

10       (2) To receive, file, and examine the proposals and the maps,  
11 reports, records, and other materials relating thereto submitted by  
12 regional committees and to approve such proposals and so notify the  
13 regional committees when said proposals are found to provide for  
14 satisfactory improvement in the school district system of the counties  
15 and the state and for an equitable adjustment of the assets and  
16 liabilities, including bonded indebtedness and excess tax levies as  
17 authorized under RCW 28A.315.110(2), of the school districts involved  
18 or affected: PROVIDED, That whenever the state board approves a  
19 recommendation from a regional committee for the transfer of territory  
20 from one school district to another school district, such state board  
21 approval must be made not later than March 1 of any given year for  
22 implementation the school year immediately following: PROVIDED  
23 FURTHER, That whenever such proposals are found by the state board to  
24 be unsatisfactory or inequitable, the board shall so notify the  
25 regional committee and, upon request, assist the committee in making  
26 revisions which revisions shall be resubmitted within sixty days after  
27 such notification for reconsideration and approval or disapproval.  
28 Except for a transition period provided under section 1 of this act,  
29 implementation of state board-approved transfers of territory from one  
30 school district to another school district shall become effective at  
31 the commencement of the next school year unless an earlier  
32 implementation is agreed upon in writing by the boards of directors of  
33 the affected school districts.

34       **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.315.180 and 1990 c 33 s 303 are each amended to  
35 read as follows:

36       Whenever a special election is held to vote on a proposal or  
37 alternate proposals to form a new school district, the votes cast by  
38 the registered voters in each component district shall be tabulated

1 separately and any such proposition shall be considered approved only  
2 if it receives a majority of the votes cast in each separate district  
3 voting thereon. Whenever a special election is held to vote on a  
4 proposal for adjustment of bonded indebtedness the entire vote cast by  
5 the registered voters of the proposed new district or of the  
6 established district as the case may be shall be tabulated and any such  
7 proposition shall be considered approved if sixty percent or more of  
8 all votes cast thereon are in the affirmative.

9 In the event of approval of a proposition or propositions voted on  
10 at a special election, the educational service district superintendent  
11 shall: (1) Make an order establishing such new school district or such  
12 terms of adjustment of bonded indebtedness or both, as were approved by  
13 the registered voters and shall also order effected such other terms of  
14 adjustment, if there be any, of property and other assets and of  
15 liabilities other than bonded indebtedness as have been approved by the  
16 state board; and (2) certify his or her action to the county and school  
17 district officials specified in RCW 28A.315.150. He or she may  
18 designate, with the approval of the superintendent of public  
19 instruction, a name and number different from that of any component  
20 thereof but must designate the new district by name and number  
21 different from any other district in existence in the county.

22 Except for a transition period provided under section 1 of this  
23 act, the educational service district superintendent shall fix, as the  
24 effective date of any order or orders he or she is required by this  
25 chapter to make, a date no later than the first day of September next  
26 succeeding the date of final approval of any change in the organization  
27 and extent of school districts or of any terms of adjustment of the  
28 assets and liabilities of school districts subject, for taxing  
29 purposes, to the redrawing of taxing district boundaries pursuant to  
30 RCW 84.09.030.

31 Except for a transition period provided under section 1 of this  
32 act, upon receipt of the aforesaid certification, the superintendent of  
33 each school district which is included in the new district shall  
34 deliver to the superintendent of the new school district all books,  
35 papers, documents, records and other materials pertaining to his or her  
36 office.

37 **Sec. 4.** RCW 28A.315.250 and 1997 c 47 s 1 are each amended to read  
38 as follows:

1 Each incorporated city or town in the state shall be comprised in  
2 one school district: PROVIDED, That nothing in this section shall be  
3 construed: (1) To prevent the extension of the boundaries of a school  
4 district beyond the limits of the city or town contained therein, or  
5 (2) to prevent the inclusion of two or more incorporated cities or  
6 towns in a single school district, or (3) to change or disturb the  
7 boundaries of any school district organized prior to the incorporation  
8 of any city or town, except as hereafter in this section provided.

9 In case all or any part of a school district that operates a school  
10 or schools on one site only or operates elementary schools only on two  
11 or more sites is included in an incorporated city or town through the  
12 extension of the limits of such city or town in the manner provided by  
13 law, the regional committee may, in its discretion, prepare a proposal  
14 for transfer of any part or all of the territory so included to the  
15 school district containing the city or town and, whenever a part of a  
16 district so included contains a school building of the district, for  
17 the disposition of any part or all of the remaining territory of the  
18 district.

19 In case of the extension of the limits of a town to include  
20 territory lying in a school district that operates on more than one  
21 site one or more elementary schools and one or more junior high schools  
22 or high schools, the regional committee may, in its discretion, prepare  
23 a proposal or proposals for annexation to the school district in which  
24 the town is located any part or all of the territory aforesaid which  
25 has been included in the town and for annexation to the school district  
26 in which the town is located or to some other school district or  
27 districts any part or all of the remaining territory of the school  
28 district affected by extension of the limits of the town: PROVIDED,  
29 That where no school or school site is located within the territory  
30 annexed to the town and not less than seventy-five percent of the  
31 registered voters residing within the annexed territory present a  
32 petition in writing for annexation and transfer of said territory to  
33 the school district in which the town is located, the educational  
34 service district superintendent shall declare the territory so included  
35 to be a part of the school district containing said town: PROVIDED  
36 FURTHER, That territory approved for annexation to a city or town by  
37 vote of the electors residing therein prior to January 12, 1953, shall  
38 not be subject to the provisions herein respecting annexation to a  
39 school district or school districts: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That the

1 provisions and procedural requirements of this chapter as now or  
2 hereafter amended not in conflict with or inconsistent with the  
3 provisions hereinabove in this section stated shall apply in the case  
4 of any proposal or proposals (1) for the alteration of the boundaries  
5 of school districts through and by means of annexation of territory as  
6 aforesaid, and (2) for the adjustment of the assets and liabilities of  
7 the school districts involved or affected thereby.

8 In case of the incorporation of a city or town containing territory  
9 lying in two or more school districts or of the uniting of two or more  
10 cities or towns not located in the same school district, the  
11 educational service district superintendent, except where the  
12 incorporation or consolidation would affect a district or districts of  
13 the first class, shall: (1) Order and declare to be established in  
14 each such case a single school district comprising all of the school  
15 districts involved, and (2) designate each such district by name and by  
16 a number different from that of any other district in existence in the  
17 county.

18 Except for a transition period provided under section 1 of this  
19 act, the educational service district superintendent shall fix as the  
20 effective date of any declaration or order required under this section  
21 a date no later than the first day of September next succeeding the  
22 date of the issuance of such declaration or order.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act takes effect July 1, 1998.

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