

**SCHOOL DISTRICT BOUNDARY AMENDMENTS**

2024 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Curtis S. Bramble**

House Sponsor: Norman K Thurston

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill modifies provisions related to school district boundaries.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ defines terms;
- ▶ requires school districts that serve residents of a single municipality to initiate boundary adjustment proceedings upon certain municipal annexation actions;
- ▶ exempts a school district from initiating a boundary adjustment in connection with municipal annexation if the affected school districts determine it is in the best interests of the municipality's residents to maintain the existing school district boundaries;
- ▶ requires certain school districts that construct a school within the boundaries of another school district to initiate boundary adjustment proceedings by a specified date in order to transfer the land to the school district; and
- ▶ makes technical changes.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**



28 AMENDS:

29 **53G-3-501**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 116



31 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

32 Section 1. Section **53G-3-501** is amended to read:

33 **53G-3-501. Transfer of a portion of a school district -- Required boundary**  
34 **adjustments -- Local school board petition -- Elector petition -- Certification of petition**  
35 **signatures -- Removal of signature -- Transfer election.**

36 (1) Part of a school district may be transferred to another district in one of the  
37 following ways:

38 (a) presentation to the county legislative body of each of the affected counties of a  
39 resolution requesting the transfer, approved by at least four-fifths of the members of the local  
40 school board of each affected school district;

41 (b) presentation to the county legislative body of each affected county of a petition  
42 requesting that the voters vote on the transfer, signed by a majority of the members of the local  
43 school board of each affected school district; ~~[or]~~

44 (c) presentation to the county legislative body of each affected county of a petition  
45 requesting that the voters vote on the transfer, signed by 15% of the registered voters in each of  
46 the affected school districts within that county~~[-]; or~~

47 (d) for a boundary adjustment required under Subsection (2) or (3), submission to the  
48 county legislative body of each of the affected counties of a resolution requesting the transfer  
49 from the local school board of the school district that is required to initiate the boundary  
50 adjustment.

51 ~~[(2) (a) If an annexation of property by a city would result in its residents being served~~  
52 ~~by more than one school district, then the presidents of the affected local school boards shall~~  
53 ~~meet within 60 days prior to the effective date of the annexation to determine whether it would~~  
54 ~~be advisable to adjust school district boundaries to permit all residents of the expanded city to~~  
55 ~~be served by a single school district.]~~

56 ~~[(b) Upon conclusion of the meeting, the local school board presidents shall prepare a~~  
57 ~~recommendation for presentation to their respective local school boards as soon as reasonably~~  
58 ~~possible.]~~

59 ~~[(c) The local school boards may then initiate realignment proceedings under~~  
60 ~~Subsection (1)(a) or (b).]~~

61 ~~[(d) If a local school board rejects realignment under Subsection (1)(a) or (b), the other~~  
62 ~~local school board may initiate the following procedures by majority vote within 60 days of the~~  
63 ~~vote rejecting realignment:]~~

64 ~~[(i) (A) within 30 days after a vote to initiate these procedures, each local school board~~  
65 ~~shall appoint one member to a boundary review committee; or]~~

66 ~~[(B) if the local school board becomes deadlocked in selecting the appointee under~~  
67 ~~Subsection (2)(d)(i)(A), the local school board's chair shall make the appointment or serve as~~  
68 ~~the appointee to the review committee.]~~

69 ~~[(ii) The two local school board-appointed members of the committee shall meet and~~  
70 ~~appoint a third member of the committee.]~~

71 ~~[(iii) If the two local school board-appointed members are unable to agree on the~~  
72 ~~appointment of a third member within 30 days after both are appointed, the state superintendent~~  
73 ~~shall appoint the third member.]~~

74 ~~[(iv) The committee shall meet as necessary to prepare recommendations concerning~~  
75 ~~resolution of the realignment issue, and shall submit the recommendations to the affected local~~  
76 ~~school boards within six months after the appointment of the third member of the committee.]~~

77 ~~[(v) If a majority of the members of each local school board accepts the~~  
78 ~~recommendation of the committee, or accepts the recommendation after amendment by the~~  
79 ~~local school boards, then the accepted recommendation shall be implemented.]~~

80 ~~[(vi) If the committee fails to submit its recommendation within the time allotted, or if~~  
81 ~~one local school board rejects the recommendation, the affected local school boards may agree~~  
82 ~~to extend the time for the committee to prepare an acceptable recommendation or either local~~  
83 ~~school board may request the state board to resolve the question.]~~

84 ~~[(vii) If the committee has submitted a recommendation which the state board finds to~~  
85 ~~be reasonably supported by the evidence, the state board shall adopt the committee's~~  
86 ~~recommendation.]~~

87 ~~[(viii) The decision of the state board is final.]~~

88 (2) (a) As used in this Subsection (2):

89 (i) "Expansion area" means the area of land approved for annexation and located

90 outside the boundaries of a specified school district.

91 (ii) "Municipality" means a city or town.

92 (iii) "Originating school district" means the school district whose boundaries an  
93 expansion area is located within prior to the boundary adjustment required under Subsection  
94 (2)(b).

95 (iv) "Specified school district" means a school district:

96 (A) that serves residents within a single municipality; and

97 (B) for which the municipality whose residents the school district serves enacts an  
98 ordinance in accordance with Title 10, Chapter 2, Part 4, Annexation, approving the annexation  
99 of an area of land located outside the boundaries of the school district.

100 (b) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this chapter and except as provided in  
101 Subsection (2)(c)(ii), the local school board of a specified school district shall initiate boundary  
102 adjustment proceedings under Subsection (1)(d):

103 (i) to request the expansion area to be transferred to the specified school district from  
104 the originating school district; and

105 (ii) by submitting the resolution requesting the transfer, as provided in Subsection  
106 (1)(d), within 60 days after the day on which the municipality enacts the ordinance approving  
107 annexation of the expansion area.

108 (c) (i) Before initiating the boundary adjustment required under Subsection (2)(b), the  
109 local school board presidents of the specified school district and the originating school district  
110 shall, within the timeframe described in Subsection (2)(b)(ii), meet to determine whether  
111 allowing the expansion area to remain within the boundaries of the originating school district is  
112 in the best interests of the municipality's residents.

113 (ii) The requirements of Subsection (2)(b) do not apply to a specified school district if,  
114 upon meeting under Subsection (2)(c)(i), the presidents of the local school boards mutually  
115 agree that allowing the expansion area to remain within the boundaries of the originating  
116 school district is in the best interests of the municipality's residents.

117 (3) (a) This Subsection (3) applies to a school district that:

118 (i) serves residents within a single municipality; and

119 (ii) in calendar year 2018, completed construction on a secondary school within an area  
120 of land located outside the boundaries of the school district.

121 (b) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this chapter, the local school board of a  
122 school district described in Subsection (3)(a) shall initiate boundary adjustment proceedings  
123 under Subsection (1)(d):

124 (i) to request the land described in Subsection (3)(a)(ii) to be transferred to the school  
125 district from the school district whose boundaries the land is located within; and

126 (ii) by submitting the resolution requesting the transfer, as provided in Subsection  
127 (1)(d), on or before June 1, 2024.

128 [~~3~~] (4) If a registered voter petition is presented to the county legislative body under  
129 Subsection (1)(c):

130 (a) within three business days after the day on which the county legislative body  
131 receives the petition, the county legislative body shall provide the petition to the county clerk;  
132 and

133 (b) within 14 days after the day on which a county clerk receives a petition from the  
134 county legislative body, the county clerk shall:

135 (i) use the procedures described in Section 20A-1-1002 to determine whether the  
136 petition satisfies the requirements of Subsection (1)(c) for a registered voter petition;

137 (ii) certify on the petition whether each name is that of a registered voter in one of the  
138 affected districts; and

139 (iii) deliver the certified petition to the county legislative body.

140 [~~4~~] (5) (a) A voter who signs a registered voter petition under Subsection (1)(c) may  
141 have the voter's signature removed from the petition by, no later than three business days after  
142 the day on which the county legislative body provides the petition to the county clerk,  
143 submitting to the county clerk a statement requesting that the voter's signature be removed.

144 (b) A statement described in Subsection [~~4~~](a) (5)(a) shall comply with the  
145 requirements described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(2).

146 (c) The county clerk shall use the procedures described in Subsection 20A-1-1003(3) to  
147 determine whether to remove an individual's signature from a petition after receiving a timely,  
148 valid statement requesting removal of the signature.

149 [~~5~~] (6) (a) The voters of each affected district shall vote on the transfer requested  
150 under Subsection (1)(b) or (c) at an election called for that purpose, which may be the next  
151 general election.

152 (b) The election shall be conducted and the returns canvassed as provided by election  
153 law.

154 (c) A transfer is effected only if a majority of votes cast by the voters in both the  
155 proposed transferor district and in the proposed transferee district are in favor of the transfer.

156 Section 2. **Effective date.**

157 This bill takes effect on May 1, 2024.