HOUSE RESEARCH =

Bill Summary =

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Subject: Allowing parents to petition for a school intervention

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Overview

Establishes a process whereby 51 percent or more of the parents of students attending "priority" school or an elementary or middle school "feeder" school may petition the school board of the school district in which the school is located to implement one of four school intervention models or other governance arrangement at the school. Establishes petition parameters and a process for gathering and verifying petition signatures. Requires a school board that receives a petition to implement the requested school intervention model or other governance arrangement.

- **Empowering parents to request school interventions.** (a) Makes this section applicable to schools identified by the Minnesota education department as "priority."
 - (b) Declares that if at least 51 percent of the parents of students attending a "priority" school or 51 percent of the parents of students attending that school and an elementary or middle school "feeder" school sign a petition asking the school board of the school district in which the school is located to implement one of four school intervention models or other governance arrangement, then the school board must comply with the parents' request. Declares the four school intervention models to be a turnaround model, a restart model, a school closure model, and a transformational model.
 - (c) Contains the format and substance of the petition. Allows each eligible student to be represented by only one parent. Defines parent as a natural or adoptive parent or other person with the right to make educational decisions on behalf of the student, including a foster parent. Prohibits signature gatherers from offering incentives or making threats. Prohibits harassment of persons circulating or signing a petition. Requires signature gatherers to disclose if they are being paid. Makes signature gatherers subject to local policies governing access to school facilities. Prohibits school officials from impeding the gathering of signatures. Prohibits school officials from using district resources to impact the gathering of signatures. Directs petitioners to comply with the requirements of this section and to designate up to five people as "lead petitioners" to facilitate communication between the petitioners and the school board. Allows a school board to use simple random sampling to verify petition signatures within 45 days. Allows a school board to contact parents only to verify their signatures. Gives petitioners 30 days to resubmit a flawed petition and a school board an additional 15 days to determine whether the flaws were corrected. Directs the education commissioner and affected school

districts to post a sample petition on their Web sites.

- (d) After receiving a petition, requires a school board to give public notice of a board hearing to obtain public comment on the petition within 30 days and to identify the intervention within 45 days. Requires a school board to implement the intervention or other governance arrangement in a petition that complies with this section in the proximate school year unless the board verifies petition signatures after February 1.
- (e) Requires a school restarted or reopened as a charter school to be converted to a charter school in the proximate school year. Requires the charter school to enroll any former student, consistent with the grades served.
- (f) Requires a school board that receives a petition to notify the commissioner of its receipt and final disposition of the petition.
- (g) Does not require a school board to implement a petition inconsistent with this section.

Makes this section effective immediately.