

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

Provides for mayoral control of urban school districts, including the Minneapolis and St. Paul school districts. Directs the city mayor to appoint a diverse seven-member board of education with staggered four-year terms and a chief executive officer who manages the district and has the powers and duties of a school superintendent. Grants specified powers to the board of education. Requires affected school sites to have a representative 11-member school site council composed of the principal, teachers, parents, and community members. Directs the mayor to appoint an education advisory council composed of business community representatives, parents, educators, and other interested persons representing education-related entities to advise the mayor upon request. Directs the Minnesota attorney general, in collaboration with affected city attorneys, to provide advice on implementing this law to the extent conflicts with existing law arise. Directs any mayor who exercises the mayoral governance option to recommend to the legislature how to fully implement this law.

1 Change from independent to mayoral district.

Subd. 1. Definition. Defines "city" to mean a statutory or home rule charter city with more than 250,000 residents located in the seven-county metropolitan area.

Subd. 2. Mayoral governance option. Allows a mayor to govern a school district with administrative office located in a city under this section if the mayor: informs the education commissioner of the mayor's intent by September 1; holds at least one public hearing within the school district seeking public comment and develops and publishes a plan for governing the district; and presents the plan at a public meeting. Allows a mayor who meets these requirements to govern the school district for 10 consecutive school years. Declares that this transition to mayoral governance does not affect existing collective bargaining agreements or reduce the terms of currently serving school board members. Causes a school board to govern the district after the 10-year period expires unless a law provides otherwise.

Subd. 3. Mayoral governance requirements. Makes the care, management, supervision,

conduct, and control of the school district and the powers and rights of school boards subject to subdivisions 4 to 6 if the mayoral governance is exercised.

Subd. 4. Mayoral appointment of school board, district administrator; powers and duties. (a) Directs a mayor governing a school district to appoint a diverse board of education whose members reside in the city. The number of appointed school board members equals the number of currently serving elected board members, plus one. Appointed members serve staggered two-year terms and without compensation or expense reimbursement, unless the mayor provides for expense reimbursement.

(b) Directs the mayor to appoint a chief executive officer who need not hold a superintendent's or other school administrator's license. Limits the chief executive officer's contract to three years. Permits termination for cause as specified in the contract.

(c) Lists the powers and duties of the board of education: (i) increase the quality of the school district's education services; (ii) implement policies, programs, and strategies to increase challenging learning opportunities targeted to diverse groups of students, increase student engagement and connection and community and family partnerships, and improve student outcomes so that students meet or exceed statewide averages for reading and math proficiency and demonstrate medium or high growth, or if students are not proficient, they demonstrate high growth; (iii) reduce the cost of noneducational services and implement cost savings measures; (iv) develop a long-term financial plan; (v) streamline and strengthen system management that includes a school-based budgeting process to refocus resources on student achievement; (vi) enact policies and procedures to ensure an ethical and efficient system; (vii) establish or repurpose local school or school site council advisory boards; and (viii) establish organizational structures to efficiently and effectively operate the school system.

Subd. 5. School site council. Requires each affected school site to establish an 11-member school site advisory council composed of the school principal, two teachers, six parents, and two community residents. Declares that council members serve two-year terms and are appointed by the board of education. Requires council members to reflect the diversity of the school site. Provides that the school site council is to assist the principal in identifying the educational needs of students and make recommendations for school site improvement plans.

Subd. 6. Home rule charter. Provides that this section supersedes any inconsistent or conflicting provision in a city's home rule charter or ordinances.

Subd. 7. Education advisory council. Directs a mayor to appoint an education advisory council composed of representatives of the business community, parents of enrolled students, educators employed in district schools, and others representing education-related organizations and public and private nonprofit agencies, among other interests. Directs council members to convene periodically and provide advice to the mayor upon request. Declares that council members serve without compensation or reimbursement of expenses.

Makes this section effective immediately.

2 Governing entity like independent district's.

Subd. 2. Mayoral governance option. Declares that the provisions of section 1 for implementing mayoral governance of the school district apply to the Minneapolis school district. Declares that during the 10-year term the option is exercised, provisions governing the Minneapolis board of education do not apply but will apply again after that time.

Makes this section effective immediately without local approval, consistent with the statutory provision (MS, section 645.023, subdivision 1) providing for enactment of special laws

without local approval in some circumstances.

- 3** **Potential conflicts.** To the extent conflicts with existing law arise under this act, directs the Minnesota attorney general, in collaboration with affected city attorneys, to provide advice to implement this law and, if needed, propose legislation to resolve the conflicts.

Makes this section effective immediately.

- 4** **Mayoral governance implementation report.** Directs a mayor who exercises the mayoral governance option to submit recommendations to the legislature by February 15, 2013, for fully implementing sections 1 and 2 of this act.

Makes this section effective immediately.