

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: School District Boundary Adjustment; Moorhead and Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton

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Overview

The Moorhead and Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton (DGF) school districts share a common school district border that crosses through a portion of the city of Dilworth. As a result, a number of homes in the city of Dilworth are currently within the boundaries of the Moorhead school district. The two districts wish to adjust the district boundaries over time in a manner that minimizes tax base changes by exchanging parcels of relatively equal taxable value.

H.F. 2721 allows the two districts to jointly adopt a plan that specifies how the parcels should be transferred. In general, the plan calls for two larger parcels of primarily agricultural and undeveloped lands in the DGF school district to transfer to the Moorhead district, and for a series of six transfers of parcels located in or near the city of Dilworth from the Moorhead school district to the DFG school district as the tax base in the former DFG school district parcels increase primarily as the property becomes developed and an existing TIF district expires.

Section

1 Voluntary boundary alignment; Moorhead and Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton school districts.

Subd. 1. Boundary realignment allowed. Specifically authorizes the school boards of Independent School District Nos. 152, Moorhead, and 2164, Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton (DGF) to align their shared district border.

Subd. 2. Plan to establish new boundaries. Allows the Moorhead and DGF school boards to jointly adopt a written plan to realign their school district boundaries.

Section

Requires the plan to identify each group of parcels that will be transferred between the districts and specifies the method for transferring the blocks of parcels between the districts. Requires the plan to be filed with both the county auditor and the commissioner of education. Requires the districts to publish the plan in enough detail to describe each of the blocks of parcels to be transferred. Requires the same notice to be mailed to each property owner affected by the border realignment.

Subd. 3. Bonded debt. Requires each parcel to pay the property taxes, including the facilities levies, of the district to which the parcel is attached for that year.

Subd. 4. County auditor notified. Requires the districts to annually notify the county auditor of any movement of parcels during that year in the form and manner specified by the county auditor. Requires the county auditor to notify affected parcel owners of the boundary change in the year that the change occurs.

Subd. 5. Report to Department of Education. Requires the school boards to file a copy of the plan with the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE). Requires the districts to report any other information necessary for MDE to calculate school aids and levies for the two school districts.

Effective date: Makes this section effective upon the parties meeting the requirements of a local approval clause, meaning the school boards will need to approve the law and file the appropriate certified documents with the Secretary of State before the act is effective.