

IN THE SENATE

SENATE BILL NO. 1010

BY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

AN ACT

1 RELATING TO THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION; AMENDING SECTION 33-307,
 2 IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE CORRECTION
 3 OR ALTERATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT BOUNDARIES AND TO MAKE
 4 TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS; AMENDING SECTION 33-308, IDAHO CODE,
 5 TO REVISE PROVISIONS RELATING TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND THE
 6 EXCISION AND ANNEXATION OF TERRITORY; AMENDING SECTION 33-311,
 7 IDAHO CODE, RELATING TO CONSOLIDATION, TO PROVIDE FOR CERTAIN
 8 NOTIFICATION BY THE BOARD OF CANVASSERS AND TO PROVIDE THAT
 9 THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION SHALL ALTER LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS OF
 10 AFFECTED SCHOOL DISTRICTS; AMENDING SECTION 33-312, IDAHO CODE,
 11 TO REVISE PROVISIONS RELATING TO DIVISION OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS
 12 AND TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS; AND AMENDING SECTION 33-407,
 13 IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PROVISIONS RELATING TO CERTAIN ELECTIONS
 14 AND REVISION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT BOUNDARIES.
 15

16 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

17 SECTION 1. That Section 33-307, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to
 18 read as follows:

19 33-307. CORRECTING OR ALTERING SCHOOL DISTRICT BOUNDARIES. (1)
 20 Whenever the state board of education shall find that school district boundaries should be
 21 corrected or altered, because of error in the legal description of the boundaries of any school
 22 district, or for any other reason, including, but not limited to:

- 23 (a) ~~Any part of the area of the state is not included within the area of a school district;~~
- 24 or
- 25 (b) ~~is included in more than one (1) school district;~~ or
- 26 (c) ~~that any area of less than fifty (50) square miles in which no school is operated~~
 27 ~~should be excised from the school district in which it lies and annexed to a contiguous~~
 28 ~~school district when the interests of the school children residing in each of the affected~~
 29 ~~districts of such areas will be served thereby;~~ The approval in any school election
 30 involving the excision and annexation of territory, or the consolidation of school districts,
 31 the division of a school district, or the lapse of a school district; then
 32 the said state board of education superintendent of public instruction shall make an appropriate
 33 order including an omitted area into any school district, or districts, or correcting or altering the
 34 boundaries of the districts, in such manner as, in its judgment, is just and proper.

35 (2) A copy of any such order shall be sent by the state ~~board~~ department of education
 36 or its designee to the board of trustees of any school district affected by the order, ~~and to the~~
 37 ~~board of county commissioners of any county in which any such district, or part thereof, shall~~

1 ~~he~~ which shall notify the state tax commission and the county assessor and county recorder in
 2 accordance with the provisions of section 63-215, Idaho Code.

3 (3) ~~Within thirty (30) days of receipt of the order, the board of county commissioners~~
 4 ~~state tax commission and the county assessor shall correct the legal description of the school~~
 5 ~~district or districts, as the same may appear in its their respective records, and immediately~~
 6 ~~thereafter shall notify the state board of education that the county records have been corrected~~
 7 ~~in accordance with the order of the said state board of education. The state tax commission~~
 8 ~~shall also be notified in accordance with the provisions of section 63-215, Idaho Code. The~~
 9 ~~proposal shall become effective at the same time~~ state tax commission shall notify the board of
 10 trustees of the affected school district and the state board department of education and the state
 11 ~~tax commission have been notified by the county commissioners that the county records have~~
 12 ~~been corrected as ordered and upon such notification, provided that in the case of either the~~
 13 ~~consolidation or division of a school district, the proposal shall become effective the first day of~~
 14 July next following the date of the order.

15 (4) The state board of education may promulgate rules to govern the procedures for
 16 correcting or altering school district boundaries, and may designate the superintendent of public
 17 instruction to implement these procedures.

18 SECTION 2. That Section 33-308, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to
 19 read as follows:

20 33-308. EXCISION AND ANNEXATION OF TERRITORY. (1) A board of trustees of
 21 any school district including a specially chartered school district, or one-fourth (1/4) or more of
 22 the school district electors, residing in an area of not less than one (1) square mile and not
 23 more than fifty (50) square miles within which there is no schoolhouse or facility necessary for the
 24 operation of a school district, may petition in writing proposing the annexation of the area to
 25 another and contiguous school district.

26 (2) Such petition shall be in duplicate, one (1) copy of which shall be presented to the
 27 board of trustees of the district from which the area is proposed to be excised, and the other to
 28 the board of trustees of the district to which the area is proposed to be annexed. The petition
 29 shall contain:

- 30 (a) The names and addresses of the petitioners;
 31 (b) A legal description of the area proposed to be excised from one district and annexed
 32 to another contiguous district;
 33 (c) Maps showing the boundaries of the districts as they presently appear and as they
 34 would appear should the excision and annexation be approved;
 35 (d) The names of the school districts from and to which the area is proposed to be
 36 excised, and annexed;
 37 (e) A description of reasons for which the petition is being submitted; and
 38 (f) An estimate of the number of children residing in the area described in the petition.

39 (3) The board of trustees of each school district, no later than ten (10) days after its
 40 first regular meeting held subsequent to receipt of the petition, shall transmit the petition, with
 41 recommendations, to the state ~~board~~ department of education.

42 (4) The state board of education shall approve the proposal provided:

- 43 (a) The excision and annexation is in the best interests of the children residing in the area
 44 described in the petition; and

1 (b) The excision of the territory, as proposed, would not leave a school district with a
 2 bonded debt in excess of the limit then prescribed by law.
 3 If either condition is not met, the state board shall disapprove the proposal. The approval or
 4 disapproval shall be expressed in writing to the board of trustees of each school district named
 5 in the petition.

6 (5) If the state board of education shall approve the proposal, it shall be submitted to the
 7 school district electors residing in the area described in the petition, at an election held in the
 8 manner provided in chapter 4, title 33, Idaho Code. Such election shall be held within sixty
 9 (60) days after the state board approves the proposal.

10 (6) At the election there shall be submitted to the electors having the qualifications of
 11 electors in a school district bond election and residing in the area proposed to be annexed:

12 (a) The question of whether the area described in the petition shall be excised from
 13 school district no. () and annexed to contiguous school district no. (); and

14 (b) The question of assumption of the appropriate proportion of any bonded debt, and the
 15 interest thereon, of the proposed annexing school district.

16 (7) If a majority of the school district electors in the area described in the petition, voting
 17 in the election, shall vote in favor of the proposal to excise and annex the said area, and if
 18 in the area the electors voting on the question of the assumption of bonded debt and interest
 19 have approved such assumption by the proportion of votes cast as is required by section 3,
 20 article VIII, of the constitution of the state of Idaho, the proposal shall carry and be approved.
 21 Otherwise, it shall fail.

22 (8) If the proposal shall be approved by the electors in the manner prescribed, the
 23 board of canvassers shall thereupon promptly notify the state department of education and the
 24 affected school districts of such results. The state board of education superintendent of public
 25 instruction shall make an appropriate order for the boundaries of the affected school districts
 26 to be altered, and the legal descriptions of the school districts shall be ~~corrected~~ altered, as
 27 prescribed in section 33-307(2), Idaho Code.

28 SECTION 3. That Section 33-311, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to
 29 read as follows:

30 33-311. PLAN OF CONSOLIDATION SUBMITTED TO ELECTORS. The state board
 31 of education may approve or disapprove any plan proposing consolidation, and if it approves
 32 the same ~~it~~ the department of education shall give notice thereof to the board of trustees of
 33 each school district proposing to consolidate and to the board of county commissioners in
 34 each county in which the proposed consolidated district would lie. Notice to the board of
 35 county commissioners shall include the legal description of the boundaries of the proposed
 36 consolidated district and a brief statement of the approved proposal, and shall be accompanied
 37 by a map of the proposed consolidated district.

38 Not more than ten (10) days after receiving the notice from the state ~~board~~ department
 39 of education, each board of county commissioners receiving such notice shall enter the order
 40 calling for an election on the question of approving or disapproving, and shall cause notice of
 41 such election to be posted and published. The notice shall be posted and published, the election
 42 shall be held and conducted and its results canvassed, in the manner and form of sections
 43 33-401 through 33-406, Idaho Code.

44 If the qualified school electors of any one (1) district proposing to consolidate, and voting
 45 in the election, shall constitute a majority of all such electors voting in the entire area of

1 the proposed consolidated district, the proposed consolidation shall not be approved unless
 2 a majority of such electors in such district, voting in the election, and a majority of such
 3 electors in each of the remaining districts, voting in the election, shall approve the proposed
 4 consolidation.

5 If the qualified school electors in no one (1) of the districts proposing to consolidate, and
 6 voting in the election, constitute a majority of all such electors voting in the entire area of
 7 the proposed consolidated district, the proposed consolidation shall not be approved unless a
 8 majority of all such electors in each district, voting in the election, shall approve the proposed
 9 consolidation.

10 In any plan of consolidation the existing bonded debt of any district or districts proposing
 11 to consolidate, shall not become the obligation of the proposed consolidated school district.
 12 The debt or debts shall remain an obligation of the property within the districts proposing the
 13 consolidation. Upon voter approval of the proposed consolidation, the districts proposing to
 14 consolidate shall become subdistricts of the new district as if they had been created under the
 15 provisions of section 33-351, Idaho Code. The subdistricts shall be called bond redemption
 16 subdistricts. The powers and duties of such bond redemption subdistricts shall not include
 17 authority to incur new indebtedness within the subdistricts.

18 When a consolidation is approved, as hereinabove prescribed, a new school district
 19 is thereby created, ~~and the board of county commissioners of any county in which the~~
 20 ~~consolidated district lies.~~ The board of canvassers shall promptly thereupon notify the state
 21 department of education and the affected school districts of such result. The superintendent
 22 of public instruction shall enter its order showing the creation of the district and a legal
 23 description of its boundaries, and the legal descriptions of the affected school districts shall be
 24 altered, as prescribed in section 33-307, Idaho Code.

25 SECTION 4. That Section 33-312, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to
 26 read as follows:

27 33-312. DIVISION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT. A school district may be divided so as to
 28 form not more than two (2) districts each of which must have continuous boundaries, in the
 29 manner hereinafter provided, except that any district which operates and maintains a secondary
 30 school or schools shall not be divided unless the two (2) districts created out of the division
 31 shall each operate and maintain a secondary school or schools immediately following such
 32 division.

33 A proposal to divide a school district may be initiated by its board of trustees and
 34 submitted to the state ~~board~~ department of education. Such proposal shall contain all of the
 35 information required in a proposal to consolidate school districts as may be relevant to a
 36 proposal to divide a school district. It shall also show the manner in which it is proposed to
 37 divide or apportion the property and liabilities of the district, the names and numbers of the
 38 proposed new districts, and legal description of the proposed trustee zones.

39 Before submitting any proposal to divide a school district, the board of trustees shall
 40 hold a hearing or hearings on the proposal within the district. Notice of such hearing or
 41 hearings shall be posted by the clerk of the board of trustees in not less than three (3) public
 42 places within the district, one (1) of which places shall be at or near the main door of the
 43 administrative offices of the school district, for not less than ten (10) days before the date of
 44 such hearing or hearings.

1 The state board of education may approve or disapprove any such proposal submitted
 2 to it, and the department of education shall give notice thereof in the manner of a proposal
 3 to consolidate school districts; except, that the state board of education shall not approve any
 4 proposal which would result in a district to be created by the division having or assuming a
 5 bonded debt in an amount exceeding the limitations imposed by law, or which would leave the
 6 area of any city or village in more than one (1) school district.

7 If the state board of education shall approve the proposal to divide the district, notice of
 8 the election shall be published, the election shall be held and conducted, and the ballots shall
 9 be canvassed, according to the provisions of sections 33-401- through 33-406, Idaho Code.
 10 The division shall be approved only if a majority of all votes cast at said special election by
 11 the school district electors residing within the entire existing school district and voting in the
 12 election are in favor of the division of such district, and a majority of all votes cast at said
 13 special election by the qualified voters within that portion of the proposed new district having
 14 a minority of the number of qualified voters, such portion to be determined by the number of
 15 votes cast in each area which is a contemplated new district, are in favor of the division of
 16 the district, and upon such approval two (2) new school districts shall be thereby created. The
 17 organization and division of all school districts which have divided since June 30, 1963, are
 18 hereby validated.

19 If the division be approved, as herein provided, ~~the board of canvassers shall thereupon~~
 20 ~~notify the state board of education and the trustees of the district which has been divided. The~~
 21 ~~state board shall give notice to the board of county commissioners of any county in which~~
 22 ~~the newly created districts may lie~~ two (2) new school districts are thereby created. The
 23 board of canvassers shall thereupon promptly notify the state department of education and the
 24 affected school districts of such result. The superintendent of public instruction shall make an
 25 appropriate order showing the creation of the districts and a legal description of the boundaries,
 26 and the legal descriptions of the affected school districts shall be altered, as prescribed in
 27 section 33-307, Idaho Code.

28 SECTION 5. That Section 33-407, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to
 29 read as follows:

30 33-407. RETURN AND CANVASS OF ELECTIONS. In any school election involving
 31 the excision and annexation of territory, or the consolidation of school districts, or the division
 32 of a school district, the board of county commissioners of the county in which the election
 33 is held, or, in the case of a joint school district, the board of county commissioners of the
 34 home county of the school district, shall constitute the board of canvassers. In all other school
 35 elections, the board of trustees of each school district shall act as the board of canvassers.

36 Following the close of the polls at the time stated in the notice of election, each board of
 37 election shall open the ballot boxes and compute the results in public view. Any ballot or part
 38 of a ballot from which it is impossible to determine the elector's choice shall be void and shall
 39 not be counted. In the event of a bond election or any other election requiring more than a
 40 simple majority conducted by a school district, any qualified elector casting such ballot or part
 41 of a ballot shall be deemed not to have voted at or participated in such bond election and the
 42 ballot or part of a ballot shall not be counted in determining the number of qualified electors
 43 voting at or participating in such elections. Within not more than three (3) days thereafter each
 44 board of election shall make return to the chairman of the board of canvassers. Said return

1 shall include the computation of the results of the election and all ballots cast at the election,
2 both those counted and those rejected.

3 At its next meeting after receiving all returns from the board or boards of election, the
4 board of trustees or the board of county commissioners, when acting as a board of canvassers
5 shall canvass all returns of the election. The board of canvassers shall examine and make
6 a statement of the total number of votes cast for all candidates or questions that shall have
7 been voted upon at the election. The statement shall set forth the names of the candidates or
8 questions for which the votes have been cast. It shall also include the total number of votes
9 cast for each candidate and/or the total number of affirmative and negative votes cast for any
10 question voted upon at the election. The board of trustees of the school district, when acting as
11 a board of canvassers, shall enter the results of the election as reflected in such a statement in
12 the minutes of the board of trustees.

13 The board of county commissioners, when acting as a board of canvassers, shall canvass
14 the returns and shall ~~give notice of the result of the election as reflected in such statement to~~
15 ~~the board of trustees of any school district involved in the election. If the proposals have been~~
16 ~~approved by the majority or majorities required by law, the board of county commissioners~~
17 ~~shall thereupon enter its order showing the proposals as having been approved, and shall also~~
18 ~~give notice of such approval to the board of county commissioners of any other county in~~
19 ~~which shall lie any part of the territory of any school district affected by the result of the~~
20 ~~election. The board of county commissioners of each county shall thereupon make appropriate~~
21 ~~corrections in the legal descriptions of any school district boundaries, within its county~~
22 ~~whenever the result of the election requires such correction~~ thereupon promptly notify the state
23 department of education and the affected school districts of such results. Whenever the results
24 require the alteration of school district boundaries, the superintendent of public instruction shall
25 make an appropriate order for the boundaries of the affected school districts to be altered, and
26 the legal descriptions of the school districts shall be altered, as prescribed in section 33-307,
27 Idaho Code.

28 All returns of elections, including ballots cast thereat, shall be kept and retained by the
29 clerk of the board of trustees, or by the clerk of the board of county commissioners, as the case
30 may be, for not less than eight (8) months after the date of the election.