



State of Wisconsin
2023 - 2024 LEGISLATURE

LRB-0558/P2
FFK:cjs

PRELIMINARY DRAFT - NOT READY FOR INTRODUCTION

1 **AN ACT** *to renumber and amend* 120.02 (3) (e); and *to create* 120.02 (3) (e) 2.
2 of the statutes; **relating to:** reducing the number of members on the school
3 board of a consolidated school district.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill is explained in the NOTES provided by the Joint Legislative Council in the bill.

JOINT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PREFATORY NOTE: This draft was prepared for the Joint Legislative Council's Study Committee on Shared School District Services.

Under current law, whenever a school district with three or more school board members votes to reduce the number of school board members, it must do so one member at a time. Board membership is then reduced by the district electing one less school board member annually until the school board is reduced to the approved number of members.

The bill creates an exception to this requirement specifically for a consolidated school district during the first seven years following consolidation. Specifically, under the bill, if a school district has consolidated and the consolidated school district votes to reduce the number of board members during the first seven years following consolidation, it may do so by two members at a time. Board membership could be reduced in a consolidated district by electing two fewer school board members annually until the school board is reduced to the approved number of members.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

1 **SECTION 1.** 120.02 (3) (e) of the statutes is renumbered 120.03 (3) (e) 1. and
2 amended to read:

3 120.03 (3) (e) 1. ~~Whenever~~ Except as provided in subd. 2., whenever a school
4 district with more than 3 school board members votes to reduce the number of school
5 board members, one less school board member shall be elected annually thereafter
6 until the school board is reduced to the approved number of members, but not less
7 than one member shall be elected each year.

8 **SECTION 2.** 120.02 (3) (e) 2. of the statutes is created to read:

9 120.02 (3) (e) 2. If a school district created by consolidation under s. 117.08 or
10 117.09 with more than 3 school board members votes to reduce the number of school
11 members during the first 7 school years following the date on which the consolidation
12 takes effect, 2 less school board members may be elected annually thereafter until
13 the school board is reduced to the approved number of members.

***NOTE: Do you want to indicate whether at least one member must be elected each year? In other words, would it be okay to go from 7 members to 3 members over 2 years by not having any school board elections?

***NOTE: As drafted, this allows but does not require 2 fewer school board members to be elected annually. Who should make this decision? Do you want the school district clerk to promulgate a plan similar to the plan required when a school district votes to increase the number of school board members?

***NOTE: I didn't include a requirement to include an intent to reduce the number of members in the reorganization order because this provision relies on the process described in s. 120.02 (1). Okay?

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(END)