



Nicole Blodgett <nblodgett@panaschools.com>

Fwd: Call to Action: Consolidation Bill to be Heard Wednesday

1 message

Jason Bauer <jbauer@panaschools.com>
To: Nicole Blodgett <nblodgett@panaschools.com>

Mon, May 13, 2019 at 12:26 PM

May board meeting

----- Forwarded message -----

From: IASA <iasa@iasaedu.org>
Date: Mon, May 13, 2019 at 11:28 AM
Subject: Call to Action: Consolidation Bill to be Heard Wednesday
To: <jbauer@panaschools.com>



May 13, 2019

Call to Action: Consolidation Bill to be Heard Wednesday

We need to make our voices heard on legislation that will be heard by the Senate Government Accountability and Pensions Committee at 10 a.m. Wednesday regarding another effort to consolidate school districts in Illinois.

[HB 3053](#), sponsored by Rep. Rita Mayfield, D-Waukegan, proposes creating a 20-person task force that will identify, before May 1, 2020, no less than 25 percent of school districts in Illinois that will be required to hold a referendum to consolidate in the next general election.

To voice your opposition to this measure, please [click here](#) to fill out a witness slip. Below are the names and contact numbers for the committee members. Please contact their office and encourage them to vote **NO** on HB 3053 in committee on Wednesday, May 15.

- Senator Omar Aquino, Chairperson 217-782-5652
- Senator Iris Martinez, Vice-Chairperson 217-782-8191
- Senator Donald DeWitte, Republican Spokesperson, 217-782-1977
- Senator Melinda Bush, 217-782-7353
- Senator John Curran, 217-782-9407
- Senator Laura Ellman, 217-782-8192
- Senator Dale Fowler, 217-782-5509
- Senator Ann Gillespie, 217-782-4471
- Senator Steven Landek, 217-782-0054
- Senator Sue Rezin, 217-782-3840
- Senator Heather Steans, 217-782-8492

HB 3053 is the corresponding bill to SB 1838, sponsored by Tom Cullerton, D-Villa Park, we have previously discussed in Capitol Watch. We are strongly opposed to this bill because it takes away local control and would be a significant unfunded mandate for affected school districts.

Currently, the state offers school districts financial incentives to consolidate. The reason the incentives are offered is because elementary and high school districts often have different pay scales, and when they merge, their current collective bargaining agreements are dissolved. What happens next, during new negotiations, is the district on the lower wage scale (which is always the elementary district because it has less EAV and can't afford to pay teachers as much) gravitates toward the higher wage scale. In some instances, the salary jump could be more than \$20,000 per elementary teacher.

If passed, we have concerns if those financial incentives would still be available because of how much it could potentially cost the state. In 2012, a task force commissioned by former Gov. Pat Quinn [studied school consolidation](#) and found it would actually cost the state \$3.7 billion over four years to merge all of Illinois' high school-only and elementary-only school districts.

HB 3053 sailed out of the House 109-0, but the corresponding bill, SB 1838, ran into some opposition from senators and was held in committee.

The task force created by both bills would be comprised of members of the Alliance, teachers unions, lieutenant governor, lawmakers from both parties, the Chicago Board of Education, special education groups, a representative from a rural and suburban school district and a parent's organization.

If 11 of 20 members vote to adopt the report for it to proceed, the proposition of reorganization shall be on the ballots of the designated school districts in the next general election.

Please make your voice heard on HB 3053 and encourage members of the Senate Government Accountability and Pensions Committee to vote NO at 10 a.m. Wednesday.

Lastly, we sent out correspondence Friday offering IASA members the opportunity to receive text notifications when it is important to make your voice heard. If you are interested in receiving text notifications about Call to Action alerts like this, simply **text IASA to 474747**.

Sincerely,

Diane Hendren
Director of Governmental Relations
Illinois Association of School Administrators

Illinois Association of School Administrators, [2648 Beechler Court](#), Springfield, IL 62703

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Mr. Jason Bauer
Superintendent - Pana CUSD #8
[14 E. Main Street](#)
[Pana, IL 62557](#)
Phone: (217) 562-1500
Fax: (217) 562-1501