

**2019 HOUSE EDUCATION**

**HB 1434**

# 2019 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Education Committee**  
Coteau Room, State Capitol

HB 1434  
1/23/2019  
31270

- Subcommittee  
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk: Bev Monroe

## **Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:**

Relating to dissolution of school districts.

## **Minutes:**

Attachment 1

**Chairman Owens:** Opened the hearing on HB 1434.

**Rep. David Richter, District 1:** Introduced HB 1434 and a list of proposed amendments.  
(See Attachment 1) 00:60-4:39

**Chairman Owens:** Any questions? Any other support, opposition or neutral testimony?  
Seeing none. Close hearing on HB 1434.

# 2019 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Education Committee**  
Coteau A Room, State Capitol

HB 1434  
1/28/2019  
31756

- Subcommittee  
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk: Bev Monroe

## Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Relating to dissolution of school districts

## Minutes:

**Vice Chairman Schreiber-Beck:** Opened the hearing on HB 1434. There is some amendments.

**Rep. Zubke:** I will move the amendments 19.0932.02001 to HB 1434.

**Rep. Longmuir:** Seconded.

**Vice Chairman Schreiber-Beck:** Any discussion on the amendments? Seeing none.

**Voice Vote:** Motion carried to adopt the amendments.

**Rep. Zubke:** Moved a Do Pass as amended on HB 1434.

**Rep. Guggisberg:** Seconded.

**Vice Chairman Schreiber-Beck:** Any discussion? Seeing none.

**Roll call vote:** Yes 12 No 0 Absent 2. Motion carries for Do pass as amended on HB 1434.

**Rep. Zubke:** Will carry the bill.

Hearing closed.

CR  
1/28/19

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1434

- Page 1, line 8, after "districts" insert "in the same county"
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  - Page 2, line 25, after the first "districts" insert "in the same county"
  - Page 2, line 25, after the second "districts" insert "in the same county"
  - Page 3, line 29, after "districts" insert "in the same county"
  - Page 3, line 30, after "districts" insert "in the same county"
  - Page 3, line 30, replace the first "district" with "districts in the same county"
- Renumber accordingly

Date: 1-28-19  
 Roll Call Vote #: 1

**2019 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE  
 ROLL CALL VOTES  
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB1434**

House Education Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: 19.0932.02001

Recommendation:  Adopt Amendment  
 Do Pass     Do Not Pass     Without Committee Recommendation  
 As Amended     Rerefer to Appropriations  
 Place on Consent Calendar  
 Other Actions:  Reconsider     \_\_\_\_\_

Motion Made By Rep. Zubke Seconded By Rep. Longmuir

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman M. Owens			Rep. Guggisberg		
V. Chair. Schreiber-Beck			Rep. Hager		
Rep. Heinert					
Rep. Hoverson					
Rep. D. Johnson					
Rep. M. Johnson					
Rep. Johnston					
Rep. Longmuir					
Rep. Marschall					
Rep. Pyle					
Rep. Strinden					
Rep. Zubke					

Total (Yes) \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Absent \_\_\_\_\_

Floor Assignment \_\_\_\_\_

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

*Motion carries*

Date: 1/28/19  
 Roll Call Vote #: 2

**2019 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE  
 ROLL CALL VOTES  
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1434**

House Education Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: \_\_\_\_\_

- Recommendation:  Adopt Amendment  
 Do Pass     Do Not Pass     Without Committee Recommendation  
 As Amended     Rerefer to Appropriations  
 Place on Consent Calendar  
 Other Actions:  Reconsider     \_\_\_\_\_

Motion Made By Rep. Zubke Seconded By Rep. Guggisberg

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman M. Owens		A	Rep. Guggisberg	✓	
V. Chair. Schreiber-Beck	✓		Rep. Hager	✓	
Rep. Heinert	✓				
Rep. Hoverson	✓				
Rep. D. Johnson	✓				
Rep. M. Johnson	✓				
Rep. Johnston	✓				
Rep. Longmuir	✓				
Rep. Marschall		A			
Rep. Pyle	✓				
Rep. Strinden	✓				
Rep. Zubke	✓				

Total (Yes) 12 No 0

Absent 2

Floor Assignment Rep. Zubke

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**HB 1434: Education Committee (Rep. Owens, Chairman)** recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (12 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1434 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

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**2019 SENATE EDUCATION**

**HB 1434**

# 2019 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee  
Sheyenne River Room, State Capitol

HB 1434  
3/11/2019  
33531 (32:19)

- Subcommittee
- Conference Committee

Committee Clerk: Lynn Wolf
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## Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A bill relating to dissolution of school districts.

## Minutes:

Att. #1 & #2-Richter
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**Chairman Schaible:** Okay, Committee, we are looking at HB 1434. Welcome Representative Richter.

**Representative David Richter, Dist. 1: See Att. #1, #2.**

Chairman Schaible: Is this to encourage consolidation?

**Representative Richter:** If a school district is running into financial trouble, they may end up having to go through that possibility of dissolution. If they end up having to go through that, then this is an option to keep the property in the same county as opposed to having to take it out of the county. Williams county is a very large county and this allows – for example, Williston is the county seat of a very large county – it allows the property if the county committee chooses to, it allows that property to stay in the county. Especially since it is the county seat. There are lots of options that are available for school districts – the other day I was in with a bill of collaboration – there is collaboration, there is school agreements, there are lots of options available for school districts to cooperate. This is an option if that can't happen and a school district can't find any other way this is the option.

**Chairman Schaible:** I can't imagine that school boards are actually thrilled with this idea also - because it seems this would really – I understand the desperate need that a school district may be in, but it also gives up a lot of authority and rights of those – by just dissolving and leaving that governance and that idea up to a different board that is going to have a lot of control over that area. It seems to me serving those districts and those patrons would really be an interesting idea – to say the least.

**Representative Richter:** Dissolutions don't happen very much. They used to happen frequently in ND when we were going from all those school districts down to very few, but now they very, very rarely occur because there are so many different options that are available to not dissolving, but you are exactly right. Dissolution means a school board

dissolves and the function of doing this goes into a county board. If a school district happens to be in two counties, then it is two county boards. If it is three counties, which some school districts that are in three counties, then it is a make-up of three different county boards.

**Senator Rust:** We are in four.

**Representative Richter:** Or four county boards. The last thing, in my opinion, it is the last thing a school district wants to do.

**Chairman Schaible:** Explain to me the rationale to need this option. It seems just so disparate to me that – what is forcing that issue? I know the location and the size and the financial burdens of being landlocked and that kind of stuff, but it just seems such a drastic step – explain that to me.

**Representative Richter:** Williston District 1 is 15 square miles. It is completely landlocked and so, the school district right now – as the city grew – all of the industrial and commercial has grown on the fringes of Williston – not on the inside of Williston. The taxable evaluation of Williston School District is very low. I believe it is \$110-\$112 million. The school population is 4500 and projected to go to 4800. As far as taxable property within the school district, it is getting pretty tight. As far as with a bond issue to build facilities, it is getting pretty tight for that very small tax base. Right now, Williston has a \$72 million bond that they are paying off right now, they are going again in April for a \$60 million bond. If that passes, you would be looking at \$132 million of bond on a school district. It puts them at their absolute debt limit. Their borrowing capability if they pass this next bond is completely gone. They are sitting right on the edge of what they can do. There are a number of bills and ways that they can continue to go. This is just if it doesn't work out. I don't foresee it ever happening, and I hope it never happens, but, it is an option. Right now, District 8 can go into a K12 and absorb all of their financials – the K12, so this is just saying here, if this K12 goes, it can go into the K8; if the K8 goes, it can go into a K12. If anything financially happens in that county it can go either way. The county committee has all the options of what they want to do.

**Chairman Schaible:** (turning to Senator Rust) You have the evaluation, the technical evaluation of Mandan?

**Senator Rust:** I had it – for, 2016-17, I did a comparison. The taxable valuation per ADM for Mandan was 31.3 compared to Williston's 34.987. This is a hot button issue in our area. Especially a hot button issue for District 2 legislators because we have land – an abundance of land that is District 8 and some land that is District 1. I am not sure that if I were to count noses, which one would have more people. The criticism of this bill from is that what essentially District 1 wants to do is lose the battle and win a war. In other words, let's close because – as you said – we have in our laws everybody kind of thinks that Williston Public School is Williston, ND. Obviously, we have so many things that overlap in there are district political – those are different from school districts that are different from cities which are different – anyway, what happened is that all of the development occurred in District 8. That is where the vast amount of industrial taxable evaluation happened. This district grew very, very rapidly and taxable valuation and District 1 did not. The feeling is that this is a way to kind of losing a battle, but gaining a war. You would eventually dissolve your district – you would have to be assimilated by another district and then because of sheer numbers, in a

vote, you would overtake them. Those people that are from District 8 are thoroughly unhappy with this bill because they see it as ploy to hijack their property evaluation. Do you have a comment about that?

**Representative Richter:** Thank you for the question. I have heard that, too. I wouldn't say – in your first part of your comment, you said if the hopes that Williston would lose the battle and win the war. I look at this as if they lose the battle. If this has to go into effect. When the Williston area grew, the industrial grew into District 8. The housing grew into District 1. The student population in Williston goes up, the taxable valuation and industrial/commercial are on the fringes on town. It is not, in my opinion, when you do a reorganization of a school district, the school district and the school boards that are intact or involved in that when you look at that whole list – the school board structure is set up during that or it is not. Williston does not necessarily have to get any school board positions – depending upon what that county committee does. If they do a school board reorganization of a school board, it is up to that county committee to determine where they are and in the reorganization rules – the reorganization rules are very specific that you must have equal representation from the various sections within that area that is being reorganized. The thought that you would have a seven-person school board and five with the existing District 1 that only happens if everybody agrees that that is going to happen.

**Senator Rust:** The court tells you that you have to have one man/one vote rule.

**Representative Richter:** I don't if that is necessarily in the reorganization rules that it has to be divided up way.

**Senator Rust:** No, I don't think it is, but I am sure that could be challenged pretty easily.

**Representative Richter:** Did I answer your question?

**Senator Rust:** I don't know – maybe yes, maybe no. But, you and I have been in some discussions with some other people earlier this year – actually, it was in 2018 and I compared Williston School District to another school district in the state of ND. I looked at them and I see they are within – the information I had was 2016-17 – because we just got done with 17-18 and that stuff wasn't available yet. They were within 100 pupils of one another as I saw them. Their taxable valuations were not that far apart. Total revenues – one was like \$43.2 million and the other was \$44.7 million. There was a difference in federal – actually, the one was a little higher in federal. State revenue – one got more and one got less, but then local revenue, one had more and one had less. We know how that works. When I got done, I kind of wondered why does one school district make it and the other doesn't. I am thinking about your statement of this should never happen – the possibility of this happening is slim and none – or something like that.

**Representative Richter:** It is the last thing that the school district would want to do. I don't know – did I say something about the probability?

**Senator Rust:** No, I don't think you did.

**Representative Richter:** It is the last ditch effort.

**Senator Rust:** You don't see this happening – I think that is what you said. Like I said, when I look at those two school districts, I wonder about why one is so desperate and the other isn't. The only thing I can come up with is the fact they have this increasing population that is forcing them to build buildings. Maybe it is because in their particular area, they are having to pay more for things because of that wonder old Bakken premium that we get hit with everything, you know. It would seem to me that for a large system like District 1 to say that we need to dissolve, there would have to be some real questions about the management of that school system. I think there would have to be some serious questions about how that school district was managed when some other school district with almost the same amount of revenue and expenditures and students can do it. I don't want to place blame on management, but that is the reason that I think it happening either. If it were to happen, there has to be some serious questions being asked about how one system is being managed. I don't know if you want to comment – I guess that is more of a comment than a question.

**Representative Richter:** Thank you for the question. I think I am going to agree with most of what you have said – especially if the one-time funding comes – on time funding gets passed. The school district's operating side of it – there are a number of ways – and I will go back to what I said before – there are a number of things already in place that school districts to make themselves solvent, to cooperate, to collaborate, there are a number of things already in place. This is the last ditch effort if something should not work out. I don't know if it is answering your questions or not, but –

**Senator Rust:** Was your purpose in doing this bill to kind of force people to a table?

**Representative Richter:** I am – I was asked to carry the bill, so I cannot exactly speak to the exact intent of the original framers of the bill. To be completely, 100% I thought the collaboration bill – 1125 was a bill that would say cooperate. I thought that one was what you are speaking of. That was, in my opinion, that bill. This one – you could look at it that way.

**Senator Rust:** As I see it, you probably have one district that wants to collaborate and another one that doesn't. If I have lots of money – no, if he has lots of money and I don't, I want to collaborate with him. I want to be in with him in business. He doesn't so much with me, and that is one of the problems here, I think. I kind of saw this as a bill that says, "Hey folks, we need to do some talking and collaboration and locally, it would be great if folks we could figure this out as opposed to having somebody externally – either the state or county committee – do it for us."

**Representative Richter:** If this bill does that, that would be great. Taxable valuation is one way to look at a school district. So you have one school district that has 4500 students at \$9600 per kid and you have another school with \$600 students. One school district that has a really large pool of money for operating and you have one school district that has a really large pool of dollars for taxable valuation. Your scenario of one school has a lot of money and one school doesn't, one school has a lot of money here and school has a lot of money here. I think they both fit into both descriptions.

**Senator Rust:** We also know, our current state per pupil payment system is student rich. It used to be that the system was property rich. Now it is student rich. If you have a number of schools in another part of the state who are losing kids and every time they lose a kid, they

lose \$10,000. So, they lose 10 kids, they lose \$100,000 and for a school in central – southeastern ND – wherever – they are in a hurt bind. Decreasing population under this present system of how we fund schools really hurts. Our formula is student rich. The other part of that is that if you are gaining kids, you would think that should be helping you. Williston kids is gaining kids at about 350 or more every year. You said you felt that on time funding would be a real help to them, right?

**Representative Richter:** I can't answer the specifics of some of the things you have addressed as far as the school district goes, but I do know in the last ten years, both school districts have more than doubled in student population. Williston has gone from about 2100 to 4500 and I think District 8 has gone from about 200 to right around 600. Both really have grown pretty fast as far as student numbers go.

**Chairman Schaible:** So what is your school board and superintendent feel about this bill?

**Representative Richter:** Before we filed the bill, I had conversations with the school board, with the superintendents of both school districts and it was based with my conversations with them that I went ahead and put it in. It is a bill that is the last resort. I don't think either one of them at the time we had the conversations felt it would ever happen. But, it is a last resort to address some of the fallout that came after this bill went through the house was that a lot of people thought that this bill created that whole dissolution process. It created the whole thing. Whereas, in fact, that whole process has been there since 1947, so it has been there for over 60 years. Actually, you could – K6 schools could dissolve or reorganize with K6 schools. That happened quite a bit. It was within the last 20-years that the part of the reorganization/dissolution process was taken out. What we have seen happen is that the number of K6 and K8 schools have shrunk. But at one point in time, K6 schools and K8 schools were consolidating with other K6 and K8 systems. I am not actually sure the date when that quit being part of the law, but it used to be that a school district could dissolve or reorganize into a K6 or K8.

**Chairman Schaible:** If District 8 passes a bond issue and builds an high school, does the need for this bill go away?

**Representative Richter:** If District 8 becomes a K12, this bill – everything is already covered in law.

**Chairman Schaible:** Other questions. Seeing none, thank you. Other testimony in favor of the bill. Agency testimony? Any testimony in opposition? Adam Tescher would you come up.

**Adam Tescher, Director of Finance and Organization, Department of Public Instruction:**

**Chairman Schaible:** If this bill passed and Williston decides to dissolve, how would this work?

**Adam Tescher:** If Williston 1 would dissolve, there would no longer be a Williston 1. Williams County 8 would have all the property that is in the city and their current boundaries that they have. I don't see anything in this bill that would address that Williams County would need to

provide a high school. My understanding is that they could still potentially remain a K8 district. I don't know what would happen with those 9-12<sup>th</sup> graders or if Williams County would then become a K12 district. I didn't see that addressed in the bill at all. My understanding is they could still potentially still remain that K8 district.

**Chairman Schaible:** I think that as we have seen that once we go down this road, there is no going back. You can't ten-years or twenty-years from now – a school district that did reorganize and became one district and now they want to go back the other way, there is no provisions for that is there?4

**Adam Tescher:** That is correct. Currently in law, there is not a place that I am aware of that allows creating new districts. Once a district reorganizes/dissolves, that district no longer exists and so, you can't take a new organized district and split into two and create more districts. They could annex into another district – part of them – or they could dissolve that district although that property would get attached. As far as creating new districts without – the legislative body could create something in code for new districts could be created is my understanding, but as of now, there is nothing that addresses that in ND Century Code.

**Chairman Schaible:** Other questions? Thank you. Seeing no other testimony, we will close the hearing on HB 1434.

# 2019 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Education Committee**  
Sheyenne River Room, State Capitol

HB 1434  
4/1/2019  
34407 (6:13)

- Subcommittee  
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk: Lynn Wolf
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## Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A bill relating to dissolution of school districts.

## Minutes:

No Attachments
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**Chairman Schaible:** Committee, we have HB 1434 in front of us. This bill gives the right for a school district to dissolve and leave their troubles to whoever surrounds them. I would find this – I don't even know if I would want to consider this as a last resort, but I think this would be a – I know they want to use it as a tool or maybe a strong suggestion to create conversation, but, I see this as a dereliction of duties of a school board to just give up on a tough situation without trying to do more things. I am not in favor of this bill.

**Senator Rust:** My name is on that bill. I feel obligated to say some things about it. I thought the idea was – as you said – worthy of a conversation and some debate. The school districts involved are in my legislative district. There are two of them that could be affected by that with a third because there are two high school districts that are surrounded by an elementary district. The largest school district has had a rapidly growing enrollment and no place to put them and they have attempted to pass bond issues and have come close, but to date have not passed a bond issue to further their – expand their facilities. I believe they have been placed in a situation that was created through no fault of their own and that we need to do some things to assist them. I wanted to make sure that – no, I wasn't sure at the time what bills would pass – it might do it that and this one was actually just part of a mix. Even though my name is on the bill, I really can't support the passage. The bill's sponsor said he didn't ever see this happening. I agree. That would actually take some gross mismanagement on the part of a school district for that to happen. The school board, administrators, parents and students certainly would not want their district to cease to exist because that is what happens when it is dissolved and be absorbed by another. Further, that has a real effect on the other school district because of the property owners and the differences in the amount of levies – as much as 50 mills. There are a number of bills that we have in that are on their way to passage to address some of those dollar issues – like exempting in lieu of dollars from the subtraction of the funding formula based on the percentage of Sinking and Interest mills to the total, on-time funding or at least getting there, maybe a change in tuition, allowing joint power agreements without the elimination of one of the administrators and duplication of grade levels – that was in HB 1125. In addition, there are provisions in the law for cooperation

– joint power agreements, cooperative agreements, etc. For that matter, the elementary school district is planning to have a vote to build a high school. If that happens, this would be moot, too. Excluding testimony from the bill's sponsor, and I think we would have had one other senator testify, but due to a mother's death, he wasn't able to be at the hearing. With the exception of the bill's sponsors, no one – no school board members, no administrators, no parents testified in favor of this – or in opposition to this. So, the level of concern for passage of this isn't that great. I am with you – this is probably one of those that needs – to go down.

**Senator Davison:** They did bring an amendment to the bill, is that something you would want to adopt first or just – in case somehow –

**Chairman Schaible:** That is up to you, Senator Davison.

**Senator Davison:** I will move **Do Not Pass on HB 1434.**

**Senator Fors:** **Second.**

**Chairman Schaible:** We have a motion and a second to **Do Not Pass HB 1434. Other discussion?**

**Roll Call Vote: 5 Yeas; 2 Nays; 0 Absent.**

**Senator Schaible will carry the bill.**

Date: 4-1-19  
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2019 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE  
ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 1434

Senate Education Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Recommendation:  Adopt Amendment  
 Do Pass  Do Not Pass  Without Committee Recommendation  
 As Amended  Rerefer to Appropriations  
 Place on Consent Calendar  
Other Actions:  Reconsider  \_\_\_\_\_

Motion Made By Davison Seconded By Fors

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Chairman Schaible:	✓		Senator Marcellais:		✗
Vice-Chairman Fors:	✓		Senator Oban:		✗
Senator Davison	✓				
Senator Elkin:	✓				
Senator Rust:	✓				

Total (Yes) 5 No 2

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Sen. Schaible

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**HB 1434, as engrossed: Education Committee (Sen. Schaible, Chairman) recommends DO NOT PASS (5 YEAS, 2 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING).**  
Engrossed HB 1434 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

**2019 TESTIMONY**

**HB 1434**

House Bill 1434  
Testimony of David Richter  
House Education Committee  
January 23, 2019

HB 1434  
1-23-19  
#1  
P. 1

Chairman Owens members of the House Education Committee. For the record my name is David Richter, Representative from District 1 Williston.

Section 15.1-26 of NDCC has the rules for Annexation, Reorganization, and Dissolution. Under the rule all Reorganizations and Dissolutions must be into a school district with a high school. HB 1434 with the proposed amendments creates a very specific exception to 15.1-12-26 and 15.1-12-27 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to dissolution of school districts.

This bill, with amendments, allows a school district to dissolve into to a non-high school district if there are no high school districts adjacent and in the same county to the district being dissolve. The only school district that fits this limited exception is Williston Public School District #1.

Williston Public School District #1 is 15 square miles surrounded on three sides within the city limits of Williston by Williams County Schools District #8. The southern boarder of the district is the Missouri River, then the Missouri Valley Wet Lands and other lands controlled by the Army Corps of Engineers. The closest bridge to cross the Missouri River is four miles west of Williston. South of the bridge is McKenzie County, the closest school district to the south is Alexander which is 24 miles.

On January 8 WPSD held a bond election for two elementary schools, the bond failed by 1.5%. The school board is planning to have another referendum in April 2019. There are also a number of bills in the House and Senate that would provide some financial assistance for school construction. This bill is a last resort for the school district if all other options and possibilities fail.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1434

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Page 2, line 21, after the first "districts" insert "in the same county"

Page 2, line 21, after the second "districts" insert "in the same county"

Page 2, line 25, after the first "districts" insert "in the same county"

Page 2, line 25, after the second "districts" insert "in the same county"

Page 3, line 29, after "districts" insert "in the same county"

Page 3, line 30, after "districts" insert "in the same county"

Page 3, line 30, replace the first "district" with "districts in the same county"

Renumber accordingly

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House Bill 1434  
Testimony of David Richter  
Senate Education Committee  
March 11, 2019

Chairman Schaible members of the Senate Education Committee. For the record my name is David Richter, Representative from District 1 Williston.

Section 15.1-12 of NDCC has the rules for Annexation, Reorganization, and Dissolution. The rule under section 15.1-12-26 is all Reorganizations and Dissolutions must be into a school district with a high school. HB 1434 creates a very specific exception to 15.1-12-26 and 15.1-12-27 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to dissolution of school districts.

This bill allows the County Committee in charge of the school district dissolution under Century Code 15.1-12-27 to attach real property and liability of a dissolving school district into to a non-high school district if there are no high school districts adjacent and in the same county to the district being dissolve. There are two districts that fit this limited exception; Williston Public School District #1 and Eight Mile Public School District #6.

Williston Public School District #1 is 15 square miles surrounded on three sides within the city limits of Williston by Williams County Schools District #8, a K-8 school district. The southern boarder of the district is the Missouri River, then the Missouri Valley Wet Lands and other lands controlled by the Army Corps of Engineers. The closest bridge to cross the Missouri River is four miles west of Williston. South of the bridge is McKenzie County, the closest school district to the south is Alexander which is 24 miles.

Eight Mile School district is in Southwest corner of Williams County. The north and east boarders of the district are Williams County School District #8, the southern boarder of the district is the Missouri River. South of the Missouri River are two districts in McKenzie County, Yellowstone School District and Alexander Public School District. The West boarder of the district is Montana.

This bill is a last resort for the school district if all other options and possibilities fail.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1434

- Page 1, line 8, remove "in the same county"
  - Page 1, line 9, remove the second "in the"
  - Page 1, line 10, remove "same county"
  - Page 1, line 18, remove "in"
  - Page 1, line 19, remove the first "the same county"
  - Page 1, line 20, remove "in the same county"
  - Page 2, line 4, remove "in the same county"
  - Page 2, line 5, remove the second "in the"
  - Page 2, line 6, remove "same county"
  - Page 2, line 19, remove "in the same county"
  - Page 2, line 20, remove "in the same county"
  - Page 2, line 25, remove "in the same county"
  - Page 2, line 29, remove the second "in the same"
  - Page 2, line 30, remove "county"
  - Page 4, line 3, remove "in"
  - Page 4, line 4, remove the first "the same county"
  - Page 4, line 5, remove "in the same county"
- Renumber accordingly