

# ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2014

## COMMITTEE STATEMENT

### LB682

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**Hearing Date:** Tuesday January 28, 2014  
**Committee On:** Education  
**Introducer:** Scheer  
**One Liner:** Provide for formation of allied school systems as prescribed

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**Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:**

Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

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**Vote Results:**

<b>Aye:</b>	6	Senators Avery, Cook, Haar, Kolowski, Scheer, Seiler
<b>Nay:</b>	1	Senator Sullivan
<b>Absent:</b>	1	Senator Davis
<b>Present Not Voting:</b>		

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**Proponents:**

Senator Jim Scheer  
Bob Evnen  
Erin Retzlaff

**Representing:**

Introducer  
self  
self

**Opponents:**

Jon Habben  
John Bonaiuto

**Representing:**

Nebraska Rural and Community Schools Association  
Nebraska Association of School Boards and Nebraska  
Council of School Administrators

**Neutral:**

**Representing:**

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**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

Legislative Bill 682 would provide for the formation of allied systems of school districts with a minimum of 4 districts and 1,300 students in each system. The member districts would participate in interlocal agreements, which would provide for, but not be limited to, deeming the superintendents as the representatives for their school districts and requiring all member districts to have the same yearly calendar and daily schedule, except with regard to extracurricular activities. The representative superintendents would have one year after July 1, 2015 to meet and create a common calendar and schedule to be implemented beginning with the 2016 school year.

Districts would not be allowed to move to another allied system if the move would cause the original system to fall below the 1,300 student minimum. Employment would remain with the districts along with contract negotiations. There would also not be any requirements to combine or coordinate revenue, spending, taxation, state aid, or any other elements relating to district finances.

Any school district could join an allied system, but school districts with less than 650 K-12 students for 2 consecutive school years will be required to join an allied system on or before July 1, 2015. The Commissioner of Education would be required to form an allied system to include any district that has not otherwise complied by July 1, 2015. The number of student in each allied system would be considered, with the goal of keeping the student populations as nearly equal as possible. Each allied system would be required to file a list of the member school districts with the Department of Education on or before July 1 each year beginning in 2015.

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**Explanation of amendments:**

The Committee Amendments would replace the original provisions, but would continue to provide for the formation of allied systems of school districts. Each allied system would be based on an agreement of at least 4 member school districts, but systems would be allowed to continue with a minimum of 3 member districts. Districts would not be allowed to transfer to another allied system if it would reduce the membership to fewer than 3 districts unless the remaining member districts agree to dissolve the allied system and join another.

If districts within the allied system choose to merge at a later date and the reorganized district joins the system, each of the original districts would continue to count as a separate district for the purpose of meeting the 3 district minimum. Nothing would prevent a school district from reorganizing with one or more other school districts regardless of allied system membership. Except as otherwise provided, if an allied system no longer meets the 3 district minimum due to a reorganization, the allied system would be dissolved and the remaining member districts would join other allied systems.

On or before July 1, 2015 or July 1 of any year thereafter, any school districts with an average daily membership of less than 650 K-12 students for the 2 most recent complete data years would that is not already a member of an allied system will be required to join one. If any such districts have not complied with the requirement, the Commissioner of Education would be required to form one or more allied systems which include such districts or direct each such school district to join an existing allied system specified by the Commissioner for such district. The Commissioner would be required to provide an opportunity to be heard for each such district, the member school districts of any affected allied system, and any other interested party. The number of student in each allied system would be considered in forming new allied systems or directing a district to join a specified existing allied system. Joining an allied system would be optional for districts with more than 650 students.

The superintendent of each member school district would be deemed the representative to the allied system and would be required to file notice of the district's membership and a list of the other member school districts with the Department of Education on or before July 1st of each year beginning in 2015. The member districts would agree to the same yearly calendar and daily schedule, except with regard to extracurricular activities. The representative superintendents would have one year after formation of an allied system to meet and create a common calendar and schedule to be implemented beginning with the school year immediately following such deadline.

School districts in an allied system wishing to cooperate beyond the uniform yearly calendar and daily schedule requirements could form an interlocal agreement pursuant to the Interlocal Cooperation Act with every member of the agreement entitled to one vote on matters covered by the interlocal agreement.

Employment would remain with the districts along with contract negotiations. There would also not be any requirements to combine or coordinate revenue, spending, taxation, state aid, or any other elements relating to district finances.

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Kate Sullivan, Chairperson