

One Hundred Eighth Legislature - Second Session - 2024

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB1027

Chairperson: Senator Dave Murman

Committee: Education

Date of Hearing: January 22, 2024

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

Legislative Bill 1027 revises Section 79-1601 which covers requirements for exempt schools, which include private, denominational, parochial, group, and home schools. This section has not been significantly updated in almost 25 years.

Currently, both parents or legal guardians are required to consent in writing for their student to attend an exempt school, and exempt school applications are due to the Department of Education annually.

LB 1027 makes these changes:

1. Allows one parent or guardian to apply to NDE for their child to attend an exempt school. This aligns the requirements of exempt schools with those of public schools.
2. Eliminates the annual renewal requirement for exempt schools to eliminate the significant delays, confusion, and burdensome workload placed upon parents and NDE. Renewal delays over the past few years have put parents in a legally nebulous situation each school year, leaving them unsure if they are allowed to continue to educate their child in an exempt school.

LB 1027 will also make these additional changes to harmonize the statute with current NDE practice:

1. Remove language regarding subject matter testing for employees of exempt schools, which has never been applied by NDE. This aligns requirements for exempt school employees to those of public school teachers, who are no longer required to complete the Praxis exam.
2. Remove allowance for NDE visitation and inspection of exempt schools which has never been implemented.
3. Remove allowance for NDE achievement testing of exempt school students, which has also never been used.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Robert Clements