

HB 488 -- RESTRUCTURING OF UNACCREDITED SCHOOL DISTRICTS

SPONSOR: Schad

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 14 to 0.

Currently, an unaccredited school district lapses on June 30 of the second full school year after it is declared unaccredited. This bill allows the State Board of Education to determine a date not prior to June 30 of the second full year on which an unaccredited school district will lapse. The bill also changes the purpose of the hearing, which the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education is required to hold, from reviewing the district's plan for regaining accredited status to discussing the district's accreditation status. An additional option is created to allow continued governance of a lapsed district by its existing local school board under conditions established by the state board.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2010, FY 2011, and FY 2012.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill allows the State Board of Education more flexibility in dealing with unaccredited school districts to meet an individual district's situation and in providing continuity of governance.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Schad; and Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.