

SENATE BILL No. 345

By Committee on Education

1-23

AN ACT concerning school districts; relating to the transfer of territory between districts.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

Section 1. (a) The state board shall establish and implement procedures to allow districts to resolve disputes concerning the transfer of territory pursuant to K.S.A. 72-7101 *et seq.*, and amendments thereto, through a mediation process.

(b) The procedures adopted by the state board shall ensure that the mediation process is:

(1) Voluntary on the part of the districts; and

(2) conducted by a qualified and impartial mediator who is trained in effective mediation techniques.

(c) The state board shall maintain a list of individuals who are qualified mediators and shall establish procedures for the appointment of a mediator to help resolve disputes between the districts.

(d) The district requesting the transfer shall bear the cost of the mediation process.

(e) Each session in the mediation process shall be scheduled in a timely manner and shall be held in a location that is convenient to the districts.

(f) An agreement reached by the districts shall be set forth in a written mediation agreement. Such agreement shall be included in the written agreement or petition for transfer of territory submitted to the state board pursuant to K.S.A. 72-7108, and amendments thereto.

Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.