

Second Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 26-0587.02 Jacob Baus x2173

SENATE BILL 26-057

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Baisley,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Marshall,

Senate Committees
State, Veterans, & Military Affairs

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD DIRECTORS ELECTED BY THE
102 ELIGIBLE ELECTORS RESIDING WITHIN THE DIRECTOR DISTRICT.

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)

Under current law, local school board members are voted on at large by the eligible electors of the school district, with exceptions.

The bill requires that local school board members be voted on by the eligible electors residing within the director district and creates an exclusion of this requirement for school districts that enroll fewer than 6,500 students.

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-31-105, amend
3 (2), (4)(a), (4)(b), and (6)(a); and **add** (2.5) as follows:

4 **22-31-105. School directors - number - election - term - plan
5 of representation.**

6 (2) Except as otherwise provided in section 22-31-131 (1.5)(b)(I)
7 and ~~subsection (6.5)~~ SUBSECTIONS (1)(b), (2.5), AND (6.5) of this section,
8 all school directors ~~shall~~ MUST be voted on ~~at large by the eligible electors~~
9 ~~of the entire school district, regardless of the school district's plan of~~
10 ~~representation~~ BY THE ELIGIBLE ELECTORS RESIDING WITHIN THE DIRECTOR
11 DISTRICT.

12 (2.5) SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO A
13 SCHOOL DISTRICT WHOSE TOTAL STUDENT ENROLLMENT IS SIX THOUSAND
14 FIVE HUNDRED OR FEWER STUDENTS IN THE SCHOOL YEAR IN WHICH A
15 DIRECTOR ELECTION OCCURS OR ANY OF THE FIVE SCHOOL YEARS BEFORE
16 THE DIRECTOR ELECTION OCCURS. FOR A DISTRICT DESCRIBED IN THIS
17 SUBSECTION (2.5), SCHOOL DIRECTORS MAY BE VOTED ON AT LARGE BY
18 THE ELIGIBLE ELECTORS OF THE ENTIRE SCHOOL DISTRICT IN ACCORDANCE
19 WITH THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S PLAN OF REPRESENTATION.

20 (4) (a) The board of education of a school district may, by
21 resolution passed by a majority of the whole board, submit to the eligible
22 electors of the school district, at the next regular biennial school election,
23 a proposal to change the number of directors; except that the school
24 district shall not elect fewer than five nor more than seven directors. The
25 proposal ~~shall~~ MUST be adopted by resolution of the board at least one
26 hundred ten days prior to the election. As provided in subsection (7) of

1 this section, the board of education may simultaneously adopt a resolution
2 to submit a proposal to change the school district plan of representation;
3 except that, if the existing school directors are elected pursuant to a
4 director district plan of representation, the board of education shall
5 simultaneously adopt a resolution to submit a proposal to either change
6 the boundaries of the director districts to reflect the change in the number
7 of directors, or change the school district plan of representation to adopt
8 an at-large plan of representation or a combined director district and
9 at-large plan of representation UNLESS A SCHOOL DISTRICT IS SUBJECT TO
10 SECTION 22-31-131 OR SUBSECTION (1)(b) OR (2.5) OF THIS SECTION.

11 (b) Upon receipt of a written petition that meets the requirements
12 specified in this paragraph (b) SUBSECTION (4)(b), the board of education
13 of a school district shall submit to the eligible electors of the school
14 district, at the next regular biennial school election, a proposal to change
15 the number of directors; except that the school district shall not elect
16 fewer than five nor more than seven directors. As provided in subsection
17 (7) of this section, the persons submitting the petition may simultaneously
18 submit a petition to change the school district plan of representation. If
19 the existing school directors are elected pursuant to a director district plan
20 of representation and no change to the school district plan of
21 representation is submitted by petition, the board of education shall adopt
22 a resolution to submit a proposal to either change the boundaries of the
23 director districts to reflect the change in the number of directors, UNLESS
24 A SCHOOL DISTRICT IS SUBJECT TO SECTION 22-31-131 OR SUBSECTION
25 (1)(b) OR (2.5) OF THIS SECTION, or change the school district plan of
26 representation to adopt an at-large plan of representation or a combined
27 director district and at-large plan of representation. Any petition

1 submitted pursuant to this paragraph (b) shall SUBSECTION (4)(b) MUST be
2 signed by at least five percent of the eligible electors of the district and
3 shall MUST be submitted to the secretary of the board of education at least
4 one hundred ten days prior to the election.

5 (6) (a) The board of education of any school district that desires
6 to propose a change in its plan of representation may submit a plan to
7 implement such THE change to the eligible electors of the school district
8 at any regular biennial school election or at a special school election
9 called by the board for that purpose. A change in the plan of
10 representation may consist of the adoption of a director district plan of
11 representation, the elimination of a director district plan of representation
12 and replacement with an at-large plan of representation, or the adoption
13 of a plan of representation that combines director districts with an at-large
14 plan of representation. A DISTRICT THAT IS SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (2) OF
15 THIS SECTION IS PROHIBITED FROM CHANGING ITS PLAN OF
16 REPRESENTATION TO AN AT-LARGE PLAN OF REPRESENTATION. The plan
17 shall MUST be adopted by the board of education at least one hundred ten
18 days prior to the election.

19 **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
20 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
21 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August
22 12, 2026, if adjournment sine die is on May 13, 2026); except that, if a
23 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the
24 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act
25 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect
26 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in

1 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
2 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.