

H.727 as passed by the House is amended as follows:

First, by striking page 64, line 9 through page 80, line 11 and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

§ 724. Withdrawal from or dissolution of a ~~unified~~ union school district

(a) A town or city corresponding to a preexisting school district ~~that voted to form a unified union school district~~ may vote to withdraw from the a union school district if one year has elapsed since the ~~unified~~ union school district became a body politic and corporate as provided under section 706g of this title.

(b)(1) When a majority of the voters of the town or city present and voting at a meeting duly warned for that purpose votes to withdraw from a ~~unified~~ union school district, the vote shall be certified by the clerk of the town or city to the Secretary of State who shall record the certificate in his or her office and give notice of the vote to the other towns or cities corresponding to the preexisting school districts that ~~voted to form the unified~~ union school district. On or before 90 days following the vote of the town considering withdrawal, such ~~Such~~ other towns and cities shall vote by Australian ballot on the same day during the same hours whether to ratify the withdrawal of the town or city. To be effective, action to withdraw shall be approved by an affirmative vote of each of the other towns or cities within the ~~unified~~ union school district.

(2) No less than 20 days before the vote in the town considering withdrawal, one or more of those residents who petitioned the town or city to warn a withdrawal vote, or the town or city if the town or city warned the withdrawal vote without a petition, shall post a town withdrawal impact report on the town website, and shall circulate the report at the information meeting preceding the vote. The union district shall provide such financial and other information as is necessary or desirable in preparing the town withdrawal impact report. The union school district is not obligated to conduct any analysis of the financial or other information. The town withdrawal impact report may contain any information relevant to the proposed withdrawal, and shall contain the following information:

(A) Why withdrawal is being considered.

(B) The impact of the withdrawal on education programs in the reconstituted district.

(C) The impact of the withdrawal on education spending and property taxes in the reconstituted district.

(D) Where elementary, middle, and high school students of the reconstituted district will be educated.

(E) The options for how transportation, special education, and other supervisory services will be provided to the reconstituted district.

(F) The impact on school staff in any facility serving students in the reconstituted district.

(G) A withdrawal timeline of events from the warning date to the estimated operational date of the reconstituted district.

(3) If the vote to withdraw the town or city is approved, no less than 45 days before the ratification vote in each of the other towns or cities within the union school district, the union school district shall post a district withdrawal impact report on the district website, and shall circulate the report at the information meeting prior to the ratification vote. The union district shall provide to the withdrawing town or city such financial and other information as is necessary to analyze the district withdrawal impact report. The district withdrawal impact report may contain any information relevant to the proposed withdrawal, and shall contain the following information:

(A) A response by the district to the information and analysis in the town withdrawal impact report.

(B) The impact of the withdrawal on education programs in the unified union district.

(C) The impact of the withdrawal on education spending and property taxes in the unified union district.

(D) The impact on school staff in any facility serving students in the unified union district.

(c) If the vote to ratify the withdrawal of the town or city is approved by each of the other towns or cities, the unified union school district clerk shall notify the Secretary of Education who shall advise the State Board. At a meeting held thereafter, and no later than 60 days following receipt of such notice:

(1) if the State Board finds that the students in the withdrawing town or city will attend a school that is in compliance with the rules adopted by the State Board pertaining to educational programs, and with federal laws and rules pertaining to special education, the State Board shall declare the membership of the withdrawing town or city to be at an end as of July 1 immediately following or as soon thereafter as the obligations of the withdrawing district have been paid to, or an a withdrawal obligations agreement made with, the union school district in an amount satisfactory to the electorate of each of the other towns and cities within the unified union school district. In addition,

(2) the State Board shall declare the preexisting school district corresponding to the withdrawing town or city to be reconstituted.;

(3) the State Board shall, in accordance with section 261 of this title, either designate the preexisting school school district as its own supervisory district, or assign the preexisting school district to a supervisory district. The State Board shall not designate the preexisting school district as its own supervisory

district, without the consent of the preexisting district, unless it is large enough to support the educational and administrative functions of a supervisory district. The preexisting school district and the designated supervisory district shall negotiate in good faith the reasonable terms of a supervisory services agreement; and

(4) ~~The~~ the State Board shall give notice to the remaining towns and cities in the ~~unified~~ union school district of its meeting and give the relevant representatives an opportunity to be heard. It shall then determine whether it is in the best interests of the State, the students, and the school districts remaining in the ~~unified~~ union school district that the ~~unified~~ union district continue to exist. The State Board may declare the ~~unified~~ union school district dissolved as of July 1 immediately following or as soon thereafter as each remaining town's or city's obligations have been satisfied, or it may declare that the ~~unified~~ union district shall continue to exist despite the withdrawal of the former town or city member. The State Board shall file its declaration with the Secretary of State, the clerk of the withdrawing town or city, and the clerk of the affected ~~unified~~ union school district.

(d) A vote of withdrawal taken after a ~~unified~~ union school district has become a body politic and corporate as provided in section 706g of this title but less than one year after that date is void.

Second, by striking Sec. 7 and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 7. APPLICABILITY.

Section 724 of Title 16 as amended by this act shall apply to any withdrawing town or city, unless it has commenced the withdrawal process by warning a vote in the withdrawing town or city before July 1, 2022, in which case the provisions of section 724 of Title 16 in effect before the effective date of this act shall apply, except that:

(1) the State Board shall, in accordance with section 261 of this title, either designate the preexisting school school district as its own supervisory district, or assign the preexisting school district to a supervisory district, and except further that the State Board shall not designate the preexisting school district as its own supervisory district, without the consent of the preexisting district, unless it is large enough to support the planning and administrative functions of a supervisory district. The preexisting school district and the designated supervisory district shall negotiate in good faith the reasonable terms of a supervisory services agreement.

(2) Section 724(a) of Title 16 as amended by this act shall apply to a town that has commenced the withdrawal process by warning a vote in the withdrawing town or city before July 1, 2022 even if the town was involuntarily merged into a unified district./