

1 S.132

2 Introduced by Senators Gulick, Campion, Clarkson, Lyons, MacDonald,  
3 McCormack, Perchlik, Ram Hinsdale, Vyhovsky, Weeks,  
4 White, Williams and Wrenner

5 Referred to Committee on

6 Date:

7 Subject: Education; union school district; board member nomination petition

8 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to make the  
9 number of signatures required on a petition nominating a candidate for the  
10 office of a unified union school district board member consistent across the  
11 three methods of representation by requiring the lesser of 30 signatures or one  
12 percent of the legal voters residing in the applicable area for all three  
13 representation models.

14 An act relating to nominating petitions for a candidate for the office of a  
15 unified union school district board member

16 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

17 Sec. 1. 16 V.S.A. § 711 is amended to read:

18 § 711. VOTE TO ELECT INITIAL MEMBERS OF THE UNION SCHOOL  
19 DISTRICT BOARD

20 \* \* \*

1 (d) Proposed unified union school district. Subject to the provisions of  
2 subsections 706(c) (existing union school districts) and 708(b) (necessary and  
3 advisable school districts) of this chapter, the voters of each school district  
4 identified as “necessary” or “advisable” shall vote whether to elect initial board  
5 members of a proposed unified union school district, as follows:

6 \* \* \*

7 (3) At-large representation. When representation on the board of a  
8 proposed unified union school district is not apportioned or allocated to the  
9 potential towns within the proposed district pursuant to subdivision (1)  
10 (proportional to town population) or (2) (modified at-large) of this subsection  
11 and the board member is elected at-large:

12 (A) The voters of one or more school districts identified as  
13 “necessary” to formation of the proposed unified union school district shall file  
14 a petition nominating a candidate for the office of unified union school district  
15 board member at-large. A petition shall be valid only if:

16 (i) the candidate is a current voter of a school district identified as  
17 “necessary” to the formation of the proposed union school district;

18 (ii) the petition identifies the term of office for which the  
19 candidate is nominated;

20 (iii) the petition is signed by at least ~~60~~ 30 voters residing in one  
21 or more school districts identified as “necessary” to the formation of the

1 proposed unified union school district or one percent of the legal voters  
2 residing in the combined “necessary” school districts that would form the  
3 proposed unified union school district, whichever is less;

4 (iv) the voters file the petition with the town clerk in the  
5 “necessary” school district in which the candidate resides not later than 5:00  
6 p.m. on the sixth Monday preceding the day of the election; and

7 (v) the candidate files with the town clerk a written consent to the  
8 printing of the candidate’s name on the ballot.

9 \* \* \*

10 Sec. 2. 16 V.S.A. § 730 is amended to read:

11 § 730. UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS;

12 NOMINATION AND ELECTION; BOND

13 (a) If by Australian ballot. The provisions of this subsection (a) shall apply  
14 to a unified union school district that conducts elections for board membership  
15 by Australian ballot.

16 \* \* \*

17 (2) Modified at-large model: allocation to town; at-large representation.

18 (A) When membership on the board of a unified union school district  
19 is allocated to each town within the district, but the allocation is not closely  
20 proportional to the town’s relative population and the board member is elected  
21 at-large, the voters residing in any one or more of the towns within the district

1 may file a petition nominating a candidate for board membership under the  
2 “modified at-large” model. A petition is valid only if:

3 (i) the candidate is a current voter of the town to which the seat is  
4 allocated;

5 (ii) the petition identifies the term of office for which the  
6 candidate is nominated;

7 (iii) the petition is signed by at least ~~60~~ 30 voters residing in the  
8 unified union school district or one percent of the legal voters in the district,  
9 whichever is less;

10 (iv) the voters file the petition with the clerk of the unified union  
11 school district not later than 5:00 p.m. on the sixth Monday preceding the day  
12 of the election; and

13 (v) the candidate files with the district clerk a written consent to  
14 the printing of the candidate’s name on the ballot.

15 \* \* \*

16 (3) At-large representation.

17 (A) When membership on a unified union school district board is not  
18 apportioned or allocated pursuant to subdivision (1) (proportional to town  
19 population) or (2) (modified at-large) of this subsection (a) and the board  
20 member is elected at large, the voters residing in any one or more of the towns

1 within the district may file a petition nominating a candidate for at-large board  
2 membership. A petition is valid only if:

3 (i) the candidate is a current voter of a town within the unified  
4 union school district;

5 (ii) the petition identifies the term of office for which the  
6 candidate is nominated;

7 (iii) the petition is signed by at least ~~60~~ 30 voters residing in the  
8 unified union school district or one percent of the legal voters in the district,  
9 whichever is less;

10 (iv) the voters file the petition with the clerk of the unified union  
11 school district not later than 5:00 p.m. on the sixth Monday preceding the day  
12 of the election; and

13 (v) the candidate files with the district clerk a written consent to  
14 the printing of the candidate's name on the ballot.

15 \* \* \*

16 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

17 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.