



**House
Legislative
Analysis
Section**

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ALLOW ISD NAME CHANGE

**House Bill 4703 (Substitute H-1)
First Analysis (3-14-90)**

**Sponsor: Rep. William R. Keith
Committee: Education**

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THE APPARENT PROBLEM:

The School Code provides for the naming of an intermediate school district (ISD) by the ISD board, and requires approval of an ISD name by the state board of education before the name can be used. ISDs generally provide services to their constituent local school districts, such as special education, vocational education, media services, and various consulting services. According to some, the expanded role of ISDs in helping their constituent school districts in developing core curriculum, recording and reporting various education-related statistical trends (such as dropout rates), and generally helping schools in their efforts toward school improvement is not reflected in the name, "intermediate school district."

THE CONTENT OF THE BILL:

The bill would amend the School Code to permit an intermediate school district board to name the intermediate school district either 1) _____ county (or counties) regional education service agency, or, upon approval by the state board of education, 2) _____ county (or counties) regional education service district. The bill specifies that a regional education service agency or district would mean an intermediate school district for the act's purposes.

MCL 380.604

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

According to the Department of Education, the bill would not affect state expenditures. (10-10-89)

ARGUMENTS:

For:

Mich. State Law Library

Designating an ISD as a regional education service agency or district would reflect the role these education agencies play in providing programs and services in the areas of vocational education, special education, gifted and talented programs, as well as supplemental and supportive services in many areas. Further, recent legislation calling for educational reforms through school improvement, core curriculum, educational reporting, and school accreditation emphasize an increasing role of assistance provided by ISDs to their area schools in the school improvement process.

Against:

The bill is unnecessary and may only serve to confuse school districts when one ISD decides to change its name while another does not. While the designation "intermediate school district" may not exactly reflect all that ISDs do for constituent local school districts, the name has come to be recognized by local schools as being synonymous with all that ISDs have to offer. Allowing ISDs to change their names may send the wrong message to local schools — namely, that ISDs have somehow changed their purpose, too.

POSITIONS:

The State Board of Education supports the bill. (3-14-90)

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