

REFERENCE TITLE: **SDRC; small school district adjustment**

State of Arizona  
Senate  
Forty-eighth Legislature  
Second Regular Session  
2008

# **SB 1443**

Introduced by  
Senator Gray L

**AN ACT**

**AMENDING LAWS 2005, CHAPTER 191, SECTION 4; RELATING TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
REDISTRICTING COMMISSION.**

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Laws 2005, chapter 191, section 4 is amended to read:

3 Sec. 4. Unification approval; elections; small school district  
4 adjustment

5 A. Each county school superintendent in a county with a school  
6 district that is affected by the proposed school district unification plan  
7 submitted by the commission shall call an election of all qualified voters  
8 within the boundaries of the proposed unified school district to be held at  
9 the next general election to adopt the boundaries as proposed by the  
10 commission. The county school superintendent shall prepare a publicity  
11 pamphlet that shall be submitted to all registered voters in the affected  
12 school districts no later than thirty-five days before the election. The  
13 publicity pamphlet shall contain a complete description of the unification  
14 plan and the factors considered by the commission pursuant to LAWS 2005,  
15 CHAPTER 191, section 3, subsection ~~F of this act~~ H, AS AMENDED BY LAWS 2007,  
16 CHAPTER 283, SECTION 5, and shall include any arguments in favor of the plan  
17 and any arguments in opposition to the plan submitted by members of the  
18 governing boards of the affected school districts or from any elector who  
19 wishes to submit such an argument. A copy of the publicity pamphlet shall be  
20 submitted by the county school superintendent to the governor, the president  
21 of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives. The cost of  
22 the election shall be paid by each affected school district in proportion to  
23 each district's registered voters to the total registered voters within the  
24 proposed unified district's boundary.

25 B. If the election pursuant to subsection A of this section is to  
26 create a unified district under the current boundaries of a common or high  
27 school district, the election ballot shall contain the following language:

28 Do you support the unification of the (insert name of  
29 school district affected), a political subdivision of the  
30 state of Arizona, to become a unified school district to provide  
31 instruction in preschool programs for pupils with disabilities  
32 and in kindergarten and grades one through twelve? Yes ( )  
33 No ( )

34 A yes vote shall have the effect of approving the  
35 unification of the \_\_\_\_\_ school district.

36 A no vote shall have the effect of denying the unification  
37 of the \_\_\_\_\_ school district.

38 C. If the election pursuant to subsection A of this section is to  
39 create a unified district that does not follow current boundaries of a common  
40 or high school district or if the unification is for more than one district  
41 affected, the election ballot shall contain the following language:

42 Do you support the unification of the (insert names of  
43 school districts affected), as political subdivisions of the  
44 state of Arizona, to become a unified school district to provide  
45 instruction in preschool programs for pupils with disabilities

1 and in kindergarten and grades one through twelve? Yes ( )

2 No ( )

3 A yes vote shall have the effect of approving the  
4 unification of the (insert names of school districts affected)  
5 into the (name of proposed unified school district).

6 A no vote shall have the effect of denying the unification  
7 of the (insert names of school districts affected) into the  
8 (name of proposed unified school district).

9 D. A majority of the qualified electors in each affected school  
10 district is required to approve the proposed unification plan. If the  
11 unification plan is approved, the unified school district will become  
12 operational at the beginning of the next fiscal year **THAT BEGINS AT LEAST**  
13 **TWELVE MONTHS AFTER THE UNIFICATION PLAN IS APPROVED.** If any of the affected  
14 districts fail to approve the proposed unification plan, the plan is void.  
15 The commission may revise the original unification plan and resubmit the plan  
16 to the qualified electors of each affected school district. If a majority of  
17 the qualified electors in any one of the affected school districts fails to  
18 approve the unification plan, the school district shall not become part of a  
19 unified school district.

20 **E. IF A SCHOOL DISTRICT QUALIFIED FOR THE SMALL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
21 **ADJUSTMENT BEFORE THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS AMENDMENT TO THIS SECTION AND**  
22 **THAT SCHOOL DISTRICT IS SUBSEQUENTLY UNIFIED WITH ONE OR MORE OTHER SCHOOL**  
23 **DISTRICTS PURSUANT TO A UNIFICATION PLAN SUBMITTED BY THE COMMISSION, THE NEW**  
24 **UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT MAY CONTINUE TO BUDGET MONIES OUTSIDE THE REVENUE**  
25 **CONTROL LIMIT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15-949, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, FOR THE**  
26 **FIRST THREE FISCAL YEARS AFTER THE NEW UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BECOMES**  
27 **OPERATIONAL.**