AN ACT

ENTITLED, An Act to revise certain provisions relating to public schools to allow school districts to operate more economically.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

Section 1. That § 13-10-12 be amended to read as follows:

13-10-12. Each person over eighteen years of age hired by a school district shall submit to a criminal background investigation, by means of fingerprint checks by the Division of Criminal Investigation and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The school district shall submit completed fingerprint cards to the Division of Criminal Investigation before the prospective new employee enters into service. If no disqualifying record is identified at the state level, the fingerprints shall be forwarded by the Division of Criminal Investigation to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a national criminal history record check. Any person whose employment is subject to the requirements of this section may enter into service on a temporary basis pending receipt of results of the criminal background investigation. The employing school district may, without liability, withdraw its offer of employment or terminate the temporary employment without notice if the report reveals a disqualifying record. Any person whose employment is subject to the requirements of this section shall pay any fees charged for the criminal record check. Any person hired to officiate, judge, adjudicate, or referee a public event sponsored by a school district is not required to submit to a criminal background investigation as required in this section. In addition, any person employed by a postsecondary technical institute is not required to submit to a criminal background investigation as required in this section, unless the person is a teacher who teaches an elementary or secondary level course in an elementary or secondary school facility, or unless the person is an employee, other than a teacher, whose work assignment includes working in an elementary or secondary school facility.

The criminal investigation required by this section with respect to a student teacher completing requirements for teacher certification shall be conducted by the school district. A criminal background investigation, of a student teacher, conducted by a school district may be provided to any other school in which the student engages in student teaching. The school district conducting the criminal background investigation of a student teacher may rely upon the results of that investigation for employment of that person as an employee of the district.

Section 2. That ARSD 24:06:08:01 be repealed.

Section 3. That chapter 13-29 be amended by adding thereto a NEW SECTION to read as follows:

Each school bus driver shall receive appropriate training at least once every five years, and the school bus driver shall pay any fees charged for the training. The training shall include classroom instruction in first aid, bus safety, and the management of passengers, and also behind-the-wheel training to enable the safe and efficient operation of the bus.

Section 4. That § 13-43-7.1 be repealed.

Section 5. That chapter 13-1 be amended by adding thereto a NEW SECTION to read as follows:

It is the policy of the State of South Dakota that the parent or guardian of any student enrolled in a public school may opt to receive any notifications or correspondence from that school by electronic mail in lieu of regular mail if the parent or guardian provides to the school an electronic mail address to which the notifications or correspondence may be sent.

Section 6. That § 13-13-78 be amended to read as follows:

13-13-78. Terms used in § 13-13-79 mean:

(1) "Sparse school district," a school district that meets each of the following criteria:

(a) Has a fall enrollment per square mile of 0.50 or less;

(b) Has a fall enrollment of five hundred or less;

(c) Has an area of four hundred square miles or more;

(d) Has at least fifteen miles between its secondary attendance center or centers and that of an adjoining district;

(e) Operates a secondary attendance center; and

(f) Levies ad valorem taxes at the maximum rates allowed pursuant to § 10-12-42 or more;

(2) "Sparsity fall enrollment," for sparse school districts with a fall enrollment as defined in § 13-13-10.1 of less than eighty-three or greater than two hundred thirty-two, is calculated as follows:

(a) Divide the fall enrollment as defined in § 13-13-10.1 by the area of the school district in square miles;

(b) Multiply the quotient obtained in subsection (a) times negative 0.125;

(c) Add 0.0625 to the product obtained in subsection (b); and

(d) Multiply the sum obtained in subsection (c) times the fall enrollment;

(3) "Sparsity adjusted fall enrollment," for sparse school districts with a fall enrollment as defined in § 13-13-10.1 of at least eighty-three, but no more than two hundred thirty-two, subtract the fall enrollment from two hundred thirty-two.

An Act to revise certain provisions relating to public schools to allow school districts to operate more economically.

I certify that the attached Act originated in the

HOUSE as Bill No. 1208

_____
Chief Clerk

_____
Speaker of the House

Attest:

_____
Chief Clerk

_____
President of the Senate

Attest:

_____
Secretary of the Senate

House Bill No. 1208
File No. ____
Chapter No. _____

Received at this Executive Office this _____ day of _____ ,

20____ at _____ M.

By _____
for the Governor

The attached Act is hereby approved this _____ day of _____ , A.D., 20___

_____
Governor

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA,
ss.
Office of the Secretary of State

Filed _____ , 20___ at _____ o'clock __ M.

_____
Secretary of State

By _____
Asst. Secretary of State