

ISD REGIONAL ENHANCEMENT MILLS

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House Bill 4989 as referred to second committee

Sponsor: Rep. Joseph N. Bellino, Jr.

1st Committee: Education

2nd Committee: Ways and Means

Complete to 12-8-19

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

House Bill 4989 would amend the Revised School Code to eliminate the special provisions governing how an intermediate school district (ISD) with a population of more than 1.4 million may schedule a regional enhancement property tax ballot question. Under the bill, all ISD regional enhancement millage elections would then be treated in the same way: they would be held either at the school district elections or at a special election, depending on the timing of the resolution process.

Currently an ISD with a population of over 1.4 million must hold a special election on a regional enhancement millage at *the next state primary or general election*.

The Revised School Code allows a regional enhancement millage of up to three mills for local school district operations to be levied by an ISD. This requires a resolution from one or more boards of constituent districts representing a majority of the combined student membership of constituent districts in the ISD. The resolutions must contain an identical specified number of mills and an identical specified number of years.

Generally under the code, the question of whether to levy regional enhancement mills is placed on the ballot by an ISD district at the *next regular school election* held in each of the constituent districts. However, if the resolution requirement is more than 180 days before the next regular school election, and if requested in the resolutions, the question is placed on the ballot at *a special election* to be held no sooner than 90 days after the resolution requirements are met.

But currently for an ISD with a population of over 1.4 million, the ISD school board must call a special election on a regional enhancement millage to be held at *the next state primary or general election*. House Bill 4989 would strike the provisions for the election in an ISD of over 1.4 million. Under the bill, all ISD regional enhancement millage elections would then be treated in the same way: either at the school district elections or at a special election, depending on the timing of the resolution process.

MCL 380.705

FISCAL IMPACT:

The bill would have no significant fiscal impact on state or local units of government.

Under the Michigan Election Law, if a school district’s (including an ISD’s) regular election is held in conjunction with another election conducted by a county, city, or township, the school district must pay the county, city, or township 100% of the actual additional costs attributable to conducting the school district’s election. If a school district’s regular or special election is not held in conjunction with another election conducted by a county, city, or township, the school district must pay the county, city, or township 100% of the actual costs of conducting the school district’s regular or special election. The Michigan Election Law allows (with certain exceptions) three election dates: in May, August, or November.

BRIEF DISCUSSION:

According to committee testimony, the bill is intended to rectify the current inconsistency in the way counties can schedule millage questions. The population floor of 1.4 million only affects Wayne County; the bill would ensure that Wayne was treated the same way as any other county with respect to regional enhancement millages.

POSITIONS:

The following entities indicated support for the bill (10-22-19):

Calhoun ISD

Wayne RESA

Michigan Association of Superintendents and Administrators

Legislative Analyst: Jenny McInerney

Fiscal Analysts: Samuel Christensen
Jacqueline Mullen

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