

A bill for an act
relating to education; creating liberty school district pilot program; authorizing
rulemaking.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. **LIBERTY SCHOOL DISTRICT PILOT PROGRAM.**

Subdivision 1. **Establishment and application.** The commissioner of education
may authorize up to ... school districts as liberty districts for a period of five years. A
school district may apply to the commissioner to be included in the pilot program in the
form and manner requested by the commissioner.

Subd. 2. **Mandate reduction petition.** Upon a recorded vote of the school board, a
liberty school district may petition the commissioner for an exemption from a mandate in
statute. Within 30 days of the receipt of the petition, the commissioner must approve or
reject the petition. If the commissioner rejects the petition, the commissioner must include
a statement of reason for rejecting the petition. The commissioner may not approve an
exemption from federal mandates or a mandate related to student health, safety, or testing.
Upon approval of a petition, the commissioner shall send a notice to the legislative
committees with jurisdiction over education policy and education finance including the
district receiving the approval and the mandate that has been exempted.

Sec. 2. **RULEMAKING.**

The commissioner of education must adopt rules creating criteria under which the
commissioner will approve or reject liberty school district mandate reduction petitions.