

Pyle readies proposed education oversight change
(MSC News)--A one-of-a-kind proposal.

That's what a press release issued by 1st District State Senator Dennis Pyle calls the legislation he's pre-filed to prevent court ordered school closures. The rural Hiawatha Republican, in the news release, says, "This sensible proposal is a unique approach and is necessary to prevent the centralized bureaucracy of Topeka from using extreme measures and bullying tactics to push their political agendas of more power and control by disrupting the education of children."

If adopted, it would amend the Kansas constitution, and give exclusive authority over schools to local school boards. "In the past there have been many constitutional proposals stating the courts cannot close schools, and the statutes clearly state this, however, this unique approach provides local control of these issues and gives exclusive authority to elected school boards, not bureaucrats or judges in Topeka who continue to wastefully spend and grow government."

According to the press release, Pyle's proposal would need support from a two-thirds majority of the Kansas Legislature and a majority vote by Kansans to become law. "Make no mistake this is a battle for the survival of our rural schools. There is a massive Topeka administration and bureaucracy that is growing out of control, if we don't take this step to fight it soon there won't be anything left to fight for."

Because of the April 30 deadline imposed by the courts, the proposal calls for a special election on April 17, 2018. If that's not feasible, the press release says it would be held on the next practicable Tuesday.

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