

HCS HB 1788 -- HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

SPONSOR: Rone

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Transportation by a vote of 11 to 0. Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Select Committee on State and Local Governments by a vote of 10 to 0.

Beginning January 1, 2017, this bill increases the membership of the Highways and Transportation Commission from six to eight commission members. No more than two members shall be from any licensed occupation. No more than four commissioners can be a member of the same political party, with one commissioner appointed from each of the state's seven Department of Transportation geographic districts and one commissioner appointed regardless of where he or she resides.

Any change to the boundaries of the seven Department of Transportation geographic districts shall require the General Assembly's approval.

Any member reappointed will be eligible to serve as chair or vice-chair only during the final two years of such member's reappointment. Five members of the commission constitute a quorum.

This bill is similar to HB 102 (2015).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that changing the composition of the Highway and Transportation Commission will increase bipartisanship, better represent rural and underpopulated areas of the state, and will prevent certain occupations from having a disproportionate voice on the commission.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Rone.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.