

HCS SCS SB 473 -- URBAN SCHOOL DISTRICTS

SPONSOR: Schaaf (Rowland)

COMMITTEE ACTIONS: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Emerging Issues in Education by a vote of 9 to 2. Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Select Committee on Education by a vote of 7 to 1.

This bill modifies provisions relating to school directors for the St. Joseph School District and the Springfield School District.

RECALLING A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER (Section 160.671, RSMo)

The bill creates a procedure for recalling school board members in the St. Joseph School District. A recall election must be held upon the submission of a petition signed by at least 300 registered voters of the district.

If a majority of voters vote to retain the school board member at issue, the member must remain in office and cannot be subject to another recall election during his or her term. If a majority of voters vote to remove the member, the successor member will be chosen by the Buchanan County Commission and will serve until the next school board election.

These provisions will expire on December 31, 2021.

ST. JOSEPH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD VACANCIES (Section 162.471)

The bill requires that any vacancies on the St. Joseph School District's school board be filled by the Buchanan County Commission. A member who fills a vacancy will be appointed to serve until the next school board election.

SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD TERMS AND FILING FOR CANDIDACY (Sections 162.481 and 162.491)

Currently, the Springfield School District is an urban school district that was previously exempted from school board member terms of six years in length. The bill updates the description of the City of Springfield and provides that the exemption from the six-year school board member term only applies to urban school districts located in the City of Springfield.

The bill repeals obsolete language relating to the election of school board members in the Springfield School District from the 1960 decennial census.

Currently, the St. Joseph School District school board members serve a term of six years. This bill changes the term of office from six years to three years beginning with all terms that begin after August 28, 2015.

The bill provides that a candidate for school board in the St. Joseph School District file a declaration of candidacy with the board secretary and is not required to submit a petition.

The bill contains an emergency clause.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will change the process for St. Joseph School Board elections and reduce the terms of members which will benefit the school district.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Schaaf and Missouri National Education Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.