

HCS HB 1601 -- STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

SPONSOR: Ruth

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Emerging Issues in Education by a vote of 8 to 4. Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Select Committee on Education by a vote of 8 to 0.

This bill requires the Governor to appoint a teacher representative to the State Board of Education (SBE). This teacher representative must attend all SBE meetings and participate in deliberations. However, the teacher representative will not have the right to vote on any matter or be counted in establishing a quorum.

The teacher representative must be a resident of Missouri, certified to teach, employed full-time as a teacher in the state, have at least five years experience, not on leave, and have written support from the local school board.

The teacher's term will be four years and subsequent appointments will be made in rotation from each Congressional district, beginning with the First Congressional District and continuing in numerical order.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill gives an active voice to teachers and although there are arguments to place more classroom teachers on the board, this is a great starting point.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Ruth; Missouri State Teachers Association; Missouri National Education Association; and Missouri Council of School Administrators.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.