

HB 253 -- ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION (Fishel)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Standing Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education

RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL ENROLLMENT (Sections 167.151, RSMo)

This bill allows beginning in the 2022-23 school year any person that owns residential or agricultural real property in any school district, and pays a school tax in that district for the two most recent tax years, to send children to that district, upon notification to the district at least 30 days prior to enrollment, and the district shall count that child for the districts average daily attendance.

SEVEN-DIRECTOR AND URBAN DISTRICT PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS
Section (162.261-162.291, 162.471, and 162.491)

This bill allows for any seven-director school district or an urban district to be divided into subdistricts and provides for the process for the election of subdistrict board members. The bill includes an initiative petition process in which 10% of voters that voted in the previous school board election may request the subdistrict issue to be placed on the ballot. Subdistricts shall be of contiguous and compact territory and as nearly equal in population as practicable. The length of directors terms, election procedures, filling of vacancies, and residency requirements are detailed in the bill.

This section is similar to language in HB 2029 (2020).

SPRINGFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS (Section 162.481)

This bill modifies the election process for school board members for any school district in which a majority of the district is located in any home rule city with more than 155,000 but fewer than 200,000 inhabitants. Currently this refers to the Springfield Public School District.

Before December 1, 2022 the election authority shall divide the school district into five subdistricts. The five subdistricts shall be nearly equal in population as practical. There also shall be two at large districts. After each decennial census the subdistricts must be reapportioned.

The bill provides the process for candidate filing, ballot order, initial terms, and vacancy filling. On the general municipal election day in 2023 and each year thereafter the expired school board positions shall be filled in the following order:

subdistrict seat 1, 3, 5, 2, and 4 first, and then the two at-large seats.

Board member qualifications and term limits are included in the bill.

This section is similar to language in HB 2591 (2020).