

HCS HB 499 -- SUBDISTRICTS IN CERTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICTS

SPONSOR: Bland (Walton)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Special Committee on Urban Issues by a vote of 9 to 2.

This substitute requires the St. Louis County Board of Election Commissioners to divide the Riverview, Ferguson-Florissant, Hazelwood, and University City school districts into seven subdistricts. The subdistrict boundaries must be drawn up by October 27, 2003.

The substitute requires that school board members elected or appointed in the school district must represent one of the subdistricts, beginning with the first municipal election held after August 28, 2003. Board members must be residents of their subdistrict for at least one year prior to election or appointment.

The substitute explains procedures for drawing subdistrict boundaries, how to apportion the subdistricts, transition provisions, and provisions for filling vacancies.

FISCAL NOTE: Not available at time of printing.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill allows several school districts in St. Louis County to be divided into seven subdistricts so that residents from those areas can be elected to the school board. Currently, individuals from these areas must run as at-large members of the school board, but proponents of the bill say that it is very difficult to be elected to the school board in that capacity. Creating subdistricts will allow better representation of the residents of the Riverview, Ferguson-Florissant, and Hazelwood communities because individuals will be able to run as candidates representing the area where they live.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Walton.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Alice Hurley, Legislative Analyst