

HB 508 -- Fire Protection

Co-Sponsors: Walton, Hoskins, Parker

This bill requires certain fire districts located in St. Louis County which include certain street light maintenance districts to establish subdistricts equivalent to the number of fire district directors for the purpose of electing new directors. The subdistricts must be established after proper notice and within 60 days after August 28, 2003, and thereafter within six months after each decennial census. If the fire district fails to establish boundaries within the deadline, the governing body of the county must establish the subdistricts within certain restrictions outlined in the bill. The bill establishes qualifications of directors, election procedures, and the filling of vacancies.

The bill also prohibits firefighters from electioneering while on duty or while wearing a uniform. Violations may result in forfeiture of employment.

The bill makes any certified firefighter who graduates from any accredited fire academy in the state eligible for employment in any type of fire district. Fire districts and departments may require continuing education and training.