

HCS SCS SB 994 -- EDUCATIONAL PERSONNEL

SPONSOR: Crowell (Wallace)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Special Committee on General Laws by a vote of 5 to 0.

This substitute requires the Public School Retirement System of Missouri when calculating a member's final average salary to disregard any increase in compensation in excess of 10% from one year to the next in the final average salary period for the superintendent of schools or other certified central office personnel of a school district or 20% for any other member.

School boards must provide an annual financial statement to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education containing the names, total compensation packages, and any expenses paid to or on behalf of the school districts' superintendents, assistant superintendents, or any consultant hired for administrative duties.

The substitute contains an emergency clause.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2009, FY 2010, and FY 2011.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill is necessary to correct the current issue which limits an increase from being included in the calculation of the final average salary period for retirement benefits. Currently, members of the retirement system who are retiring are being penalized for certain salary increases. The bill incorporates the intent of Senate Bill 406 passed in 2007 which was enacted to keep only superintendents and other central office staff from increasing their pay to benefit their retirement.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Crowell; Missouri State Teachers Association; and Missouri National Education Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say it treats different classes of certificated workers in public school systems differently and could pose a constitutional problem. There is no provision in the bill that defines the terms "certified central office personnel" and could raise an issue as to whether any administrative staff working outside a school district's central office are eligible for the increase.

Testifying on the bill was Public School Retirement System of Missouri.