

HB 659 -- TRANSITION OF SCHOOL GOVERNANCE

SPONSOR: Dusenberg

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 10 to 0.

This bill allows the State Board of Education to appoint additional members to any special administrative board appointed under Section 162.081, RSMo, regarding lapsed school districts. The state board may set a final term with an end date of June 30 for any member whose successor will be elected by the district's voters on the municipal election day immediately prior to the expiration of the final term of office. Otherwise qualified special board members are allowed to run for an elected seat on the board. If the state board replaces the chair of the special board, the members of the special board are authorized to appoint and sign a contract for a superintendent of schools. The state board may also set a date for the school district to return to local governance and continue operation as a district as authorized by law.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2010, FY 2011, and FY 2012.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the current law does not provide much direction on how a lapsed school district can transition from state control. The bill offers the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education more flexibility in returning districts to local control.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Dusenberg; and Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.