

HB 933 -- Travel Hardships of Public School Students

Sponsor: Jones (50)

This bill changes the laws regarding travel hardships of public school students by prohibiting any current or retired school administrator from appointment to a board of arbitration regarding an appeal of a change in a school district's boundaries in which the voters in one of the districts votes against the change and the voters in the other district vote for the change.

Any reassignment granted before August 28, 2013, by the Commissioner of Education within the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education because of a travel hardship must remain in effect until the student and any sibling of the student completes his or her course of study or the parent or guardian withdraws the student.

The bill establishes a process to make reassignment mandatory for any pupil or sibling of a pupil living in St. Albans, St. Elizabeth, or Gravois Mills if the actual driving distance is 17 miles or more from the student's residence to the current school, the other school is at least seven miles closer, and the transfer will not cause the receiving district to exceed its class size restrictions. A reassignment must be made in the order that applications are received. If a parent withdraws a student after receiving a travel hardship, any subsequent hardship assignment is discretionary. A pupil must be eligible to apply for reassignment under the specified enrollment requirements established in the bill, and the sending district must pay the tuition amount which cannot exceed the pro rata cost of instruction to the receiving district.