

HCS HB 1540 -- RECORDING SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETINGS (Basye)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Standing Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 1540.

This bill prevents any public school districts and charter schools from prohibiting a parent or guardian from audio recording any meeting held under the Federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) or a Section 504 plan meeting (Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973).

Districts or charter schools may not require parents to provide more than 24 hours notice in order to record said meeting, and no school district employee who reports a violation under this section shall be subject to discharge, retaliation, or any other adverse employment action for reporting (Section 162.686, RSMo).

This bill requires school districts and charter schools to establish a state-approved gifted program if 3% or more of the students are determined to be gifted by July 1, 2022. By July 1, 2022, districts and charter schools with average daily attendance of more than 350 students are required to have a teacher certificated to teach gifted education, any teacher providing gifted instruction without a gifted-teaching certificate must participate in six hours per year of professional development regarding gifted services (Section 162.720).

This bill establishes a process for the annexation of two adjacent special school districts.

If requested by a petition, signed by the specified number of voters from the school district proposing the annexation, the school board of the district shall submit the question to the voters of the district. If a majority of the votes cast in the special school district proposing annexation favor annexation, the secretary of the board shall certify the fact.

For any newly created special school district with more than 100,00 inhabitants, the membership of the governing council shall be expanded and redistricting guidelines are specified in the bill.

The newly formed special school district must adopt a resolution forming a redistricting committee every decade after the decennial census has been reported, as specified in the bill. The proposed redistricting plan must be approved by a majority of the committee prior to its adoption. Upon adoption a copy of the plan certified

by the secretary of the committee must be sent to the State Board of Education(SBE) for its approval or disapproval. Criteria for approval is specified in the bill. If a redistricting plan is not adopted within one year of the publication of the census the SBE shall provide the redistricting plan.

Within 30 days of the adoption of a redistricting plan, the SBE shall call for a special election for school board members of the new special school district. The bill specifies that a redistricting committee shall not serve on the school board for a period of six years following his or her service on the redistricting committee (Section 162.877).

Currently, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) will reimburse school districts for the costs of special education for high-needs children with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) exceeding three times the current expenditure per average daily attendance as calculated on the district annual secretary of the board report for the year in which the expenditures are claimed. This bill states that any money reimbursed to a school district, with 500 or less students, is excluded from such calculation.

This bill specifies that a school district shall submit the cost of serving any high-needs student with an IEP to DESE (Section 162.974).