

HCS HB 164 -- SCHOOL DISTRICT SUBDISTRICTS

SPONSOR: Veit

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 16 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 164.

This bill allows for any seven-director school district or an urban district to be divided into subdistricts and provides for the process for the election of subdistrict board members. The bill includes an initiative petition process in which 10% of voters that voted in the previous school board election may request the subdistrict issue to be placed on the ballot. Subdistricts shall be of contiguous and compact territory and as nearly equal in population as practicable. The length of directors terms, election procedures, filling of vacancies, and residency requirements are detailed in the bill.

This bill is similar to HB 2029 (2020).

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this would give districts local control over the board makeup mechanism. Currently, many districts in the state are comprised of several members of one community and lack input from a large swath of the district. This bill will give districts the opportunity to be more representative and potentially allow large geographic districts or non-homogeneous districts to diversify.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Veit; John Landwehr; and Michael Couty.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.