

HCS HB 421 -- SCHOOL DISTRICT SUBDISTRICTS

SPONSOR: Proudie

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 18 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 421.

This bill allows for any seven-director school district or an urban district to be divided into subdistricts, or a combination of subdistricts and at large districts, and provides for the process for the election of subdistrict board members. Either by majority vote of the school board or by an initiative petition signed by 10% of the number of votes cast in the most recent school board election a process will begin to hold public hearings as outlined in the bill develop a plan to divide the district. The details of the plan proposal are outlined in the bill and once developed must be submitted to the voters in the district before final approval and implementation. Subdistricts shall be of contiguous and compact territory and as nearly equal in population as practicable. The bill contains appeal language for any resident of the district that objects to the division of the district by the election authority, and prevents any district that votes to divide from making changes for 5 years after the division.

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 too often districts have school boards that are not reflective of the district at large but rather a specific neighborhood or small area. This bill will allow for different voices to be heard and directly impacts districts with diverse student bodies.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Proudie and Kendall Martinez-Wright.

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.