

HJR 47 -- STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

SPONSOR: Bailey

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 9 to 8. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 9 to 2.

Upon voter approval, this resolution proposes amending the Missouri Constitution to change the state board of education (SBE) from being appointed by the Governor to a board elected at the same time as the next presidential election. One member will be elected from each congressional district by the voters of the congressional district and one member will be elected by the voters of the state. Vacancies may be filled by the Governor as outlined in the bill.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this will hold the (SBE) accountable to the people and that this wouldn't necessarily be a partisan ballot issue.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Bailey

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that the 1945 Constitution changed the composition of the State Board from an elected superintendent to the current appointment system and that the term length and staggered nature prevents one governor from appointing an entire board.

Testifying against the bill was the Missouri State Teachers Association.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say in other states that have elected board members there is a large influx of political campaign money from lobbyists and that rather than a better quality board, the Board is compromised with better politicians.

Testifying on the bill was Mary R. Byrne.

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.