

HB 2896 -- HIGHER EDUCATION GOVERNING BODIES

SPONSOR: Brown

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development by a vote of 11 to 1 with 1 member voting present. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Legislative by a vote of 10 to 0.

This bill limits the number of board appointees that may reside in the city or county of the specified higher education public institution's principal administrative office.

The bill applies to Harris-Stowe State College, Northwest Missouri State University, Missouri State University, Missouri Southern State, University of Central Missouri, Southeast Missouri State University, Truman State University, Lincoln University of Missouri, and State Technical College of Missouri.

This bill is similar to SB 939 (2026).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that it is difficult to find qualified individuals that are willing to be nominated to college boards. The specific qualifications being removed are prohibitive and these changes will make it easier to select people from closer to the university. Having a cross-sector of opinions from around the State is often a better fit and having even more districts or subdistricts would be good.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Brown and Arnie Dienoff .

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

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