

HB 785 -- Fire Protection

Sponsor: Walton

This bill requires the board of election commissioners in certain fire districts located in St. Louis County which include certain street light maintenance districts to establish wards equivalent to the number of fire district directors for the purpose of electing new directors. The wards must be established after proper notice and within 60 days after August 28, 2004, and thereafter within six months after each decennial census. If the fire district fails to establish wards within the deadline, the governing body of the county must establish the wards within certain restrictions. The bill establishes qualifications for directors, election procedures, and procedures for the filling of vacancies.

The bill also prohibits firefighters from electioneering while on duty or while wearing a uniform. Violations are a class four elections offense and may also result in forfeiture of employment.