

HCS HB 440 -- STUDENT MEMBERS OF UNIVERSITY GOVERNING BOARDS

SPONSOR: Kingery (Pratt)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Higher Education by a vote of 11 to 0.

This substitute gives voting rights to a student curator or governing board member for the University of Missouri, Missouri State University, and Truman State University. Currently, the boards have nonvoting student members. The substitute does not change the status of the nonvoting member but requires that the next appointment of a voting member be a full-time student, who will serve for two years. The substitute will sunset after four years, so that with the first available appointment after August 28, 2009, the voting student curator will be replaced with a nonstudent curator unless the General Assembly takes action to make the voting student curator position permanent.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2006, FY 2007, and FY 2008.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that students are the ultimate consumer of an institution's services and deserve a voice on governing boards. They are mature enough to handle the stresses, and the selection process is rigorous.

Testifying for the bill were Representatives Pratt and Baker (123); Shawn Gebhardt; Kelli Wolf; Mary Sherd; and various members of the Associated Students of the University of Missouri.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say pressure on a student curator will be intense. This is a dramatic change in governance.

Others testifying on the bill was Southeast Missouri State University.

Becky DeNeve, Senior Legislative Analyst