

HCS HB 542 -- SCHOOL AID RECALCULATION FOR RIVERVIEW GARDENS

SPONSOR: Wallace (Walsh)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 13 to 0.

This substitute requires the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to recalculate the state school aid for the Riverview Gardens School District due to the district setting its levy in the capital projects fund instead of the incidental fund in calendar year 2005. The department must calculate the amount the district would have received in state aid if the levy had been correctly placed and use the revised aid figure to distribute aid for Fiscal Year 2010 and subsequent years. The State Auditor must perform a follow-up to its 2007 audit on the district's effort to address the audit's issues after the 2010-2011 school year, and the district is required to obtain an independent appraisal prior to selling any property.

The substitute contains an emergency clause.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Cost on General Revenue Fund of \$8,490,350 in FY 2010, \$1,578,885 in FY 2011, and \$1,957,903 in FY 2012. No impact on Other State Funds in FY 2010, FY 2011, and FY 2012.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that although mistakes were made in the past, the district is making strides in improving both its academic and financial performance. The district falls about \$2 million short annually in state aid as a result of its incorrectly placed levy.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Walsh; Rhonda Key and Tommy Pearson, Riverview Gardens School District; Missouri National Education Association; and Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that the school board does not listen to its constituents, and the administration has more employees than similar districts.

Testifying against the bill was Arnie Dienoff.