

HB 1030 -- Teacher Termination Proceedings

Sponsor: Stream

This bill allows local school boards to adopt an alternative procedure for dismissing tenured teachers by using an impartial hearing officer rather than a hearing before the board. If a hearing is to be held before a hearing officer, the superintendent must notify the Labor and Industrial Relations Commission within the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, which will provide within five days a list of five prospective impartial hearing officers who are accredited by a national arbitration organization and are not residents of the district. The commission will also establish uniform rules of procedure for the hearings, which are to be held from 30 to 45 days after the selection of the hearing officer unless there is a mutual arrangement for a different time period. Hearings must be public unless closed at the request of the teacher. The bill contains provisions regarding representation by counsel, subpoenas, and the record of testimony. The hearing officer must provide a recommendation no later than 30 days after the hearing concludes, and the recommendation may include an advisory opinion for discipline rather than dismissal or an extended meet-and-confer period. The board must make its final decision within 30 days after receipt of the hearing officer's recommendation. An appeal on a decision of the board may be made to the circuit court in the county where the school district is located.

The bill also removes the provisions regarding the separate dismissal procedure for teachers employed by the St. Louis City School District.