

HCS SB 695 -- BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

SPONSOR: Wallingford

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Special Committee on Government Oversight by a vote of 10 to 1. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 9 to 1.

This bill makes changes to the State Capitol Commission and State Board of Education.

STATE CAPITOL COMMISSION

The bill increases the number of members on the State Capitol Commission from 11 to 15 by adding four public members with two appointed by the President Pro Tem of the Senate and two appointed by the Speaker of the House. The bill modifies the four existing legislative members so that one majority party member is appointed by the President Pro Tem of the Senate, one minority party member by the Minority Floor Leader of the Senate, one majority party member by the Speaker of the House, and one minority party member by the Minority Floor Leader of the House. The term length and other qualifications of the commission members remain unchanged.

The commission is granted authority to supervise and coordinate activities in the Capitol building, grounds, and annex areas including evaluating and making recommendations involving the 21st-Century State Capitol Restoration Project. Annex areas will include the transportation building at 105 West Capitol Avenue if it is used for members of the General Assembly or legislative staff, and any other new building constructed for such purposes. The commission is required to issue an annual report based on the fiscal year and specified appropriation requirements for the Capitol building, grounds, and annex areas on or before October 1 of each year to the General Assembly and the Budget Director (Sections 8.003, 8.007, 8.015, and 8.017, RSMo).

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

This bill adds a nonvoting teacher representative member to the State Board of Education. The teacher must be an "active classroom teacher," as defined in the bill and may be a public or private school teacher. The term of the teacher representative shall be for four years and the appointment criteria and process are specified in the bill. This section expires August 28, 2026 (Sections 161.026 and 161.072).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill is beneficial with regard to board of education modifications. There may be legal issues with gubernatorial appointment provisions.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Wallingford; School Administrators Coalition; and the Missouri State Teachers Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.