

HCS HB 132, 173, 117 & 48 -- CERTAIN STATE INSTITUTIONS OF
HIGHER EDUCATION

SPONSOR: Cunningham, 86 (Wright)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Education
by a vote of 16 to 5 with 3 present.

This substitute changes the names of state colleges and universities as follows: Southwest Missouri State University will become Missouri State University; Missouri Western State College will become Missouri Western State University; and Missouri Southern State College will become Missouri Southern State University-Joplin. No state funds may be used to effect the changes of name. The name change for Southwest Missouri State University does not authorize any new academic programs. Members of the board of regents for Missouri Southern State College will be drawn from within a 60-mile radius of the college's district.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the name changes for all three institutions are a reflection of the natural growth and development that higher education institutions undergo. The change from college to university is important in recruiting students from and establishing relationships with institutions in other countries, where "college" connotes secondary school. Name changes should help with attracting faculty, grants, and fund-raising in general. Thirty other states have both "University of" and "State University" designations. Dropping "Southwest" from the university's title should not diminish the premier status of the University of Missouri system.

Testifying for House Bill 48 were Representative Schaaf; Kevin Callaway, Missouri Western State College student regent; and J. David Arnold, Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs, Missouri Western State College.

Testifying for House Bill 117 was Representative Schaaf.

Testifying for House Bill 132 were Representative Wright; Barbara Burns, Southwest Missouri State University Board of Governors; Stephanie Schlue, Vice President, Southwest Missouri State University Student Government Association; and Michael Goodart, Jr., Southwest Missouri State University student.

Testifying for House Bill 173 were Representative Stevenson; Julio Leon, President, Missouri Southern State College; Representative Richard, Missouri Southern State College

Foundation.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that Southwest Missouri State University's name change may have negative consequences for Central Missouri State University; many of Southwest Missouri State University's reasons for dropping the regional part of its name also apply to Central Missouri State University. It would be better to wait to see what the newly appointed Governor's Commission on the Future of Higher Education has to say before making changes like these.

Testifying against House Bill 132 was Bobby Patton, President, Central Missouri State University.

Becky DeNeve, Senior Legislative Analyst