

HB 655 -- SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

This bill deletes the current requirement that students receiving special education services must be accommodated when possible by special aids and services rather than separate classes and restates it to require that separate schooling be used only when education in regular classes with aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily. The bill also revises the procedure for review of hearing panel decisions, requiring the court to receive the administrative record, hear additional evidence if requested, and rule on the preponderance of the evidence. A period in which judicial review may be petitioned is provided for. The bill permits appeals of the court's decision and makes Chapter 536, RSMo (Administrative Procedure and Review), applicable to special education due process hearings and appeals under certain circumstances.