

HCS HB 1040 -- EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY

SPONSOR: Cunningham (86)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Education by a vote of 24 to 0.

ASSESSMENTS AND ACCREDITATION

By June 30, 2006, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will align assessment performance standards to levels that meet, but do not exceed, those used in the National Assessment of Educational Progress and make other changes necessary to meet federal requirements; and by July 1, 2006, the department will revise its accreditation standards to permit process and resource standard waivers consistent with academic performance profiles. The accreditation scoring rubric must not require points for the Parents as Teachers Program, although deficiencies may be noted as an area of concern and must reward districts that use instructional technology to accomplish their advanced placement goals. The substitute permits districts to develop incentives or supplementary work as a consequence of a student's performance on the statewide assessments.

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

The substitute clarifies that the nepotism provisions of the Missouri Constitution apply to school districts. Districts serving the same students, such as K-8 districts and the districts that provide high schools to those districts, must make a good-faith effort to coordinate their school calendars.

OTHER PROVISIONS

The department must seek feedback on its rules and regulations and give priority to the review of existing regulations that could be relaxed in hard economic times, as defined in the substitute, without affecting student achievement. The Division of Family Services cannot meet with a child in the same school or child care facility where abuse is alleged to have occurred. Currently, the division cannot meet with a child at any school or child care facility. This provision contains an emergency clause.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the changes to the performance standards on the state assessments will help make comparisons from state to state more accurate and should help ease full implementation of the No Child Left Behind Program. The

correction to the procedure that the Division of Family Services must follow should help make it easier to interview an abused child under circumstances that are less threatening to the child without creating liability for the school district.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Cunningham (86); Missouri State Teachers Association; Dr. Mark Enderle, Fulton Public Schools Superintendent; Missouri School Boards Association; Missouri National Education Association; School Administrators' Coalition; and Missouri Federation of Teachers.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that changes to the district policy on student participation remain stated in permissive rather than mandatory language. It is unclear how changes to the assessment and accreditation procedures will affect school districts because of the statutory requirement that revisions to the Missouri School Improvement Program cannot be implemented for two years.

Testifying against the bill was Olin Parks, Pemiscot Public School Superintendent.

Becky DeNeve, Senior Legislative Analyst