

HB 530 -- AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE

This bill treats American Sign Language (ASL) as a foreign language for the granting of academic credit at public schools and public higher education institutions. Students may receive academic credit for demonstrating proficiency or completing a course with a passing grade. The credit may be used to satisfy the foreign language or language arts requirements, including entrance requirements of public higher education institutions. Nothing in the bill prohibits a department of a higher education institution from establishing specific language requirements for its majors that cannot be met by ASL, nor does the bill prohibit the offering of noncredit courses in ASL. The Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Missouri American Sign Language Teachers Association, upon request, will assist in the development and teaching of the courses.