

HCS SB 42 -- SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS

SPONSOR: Days (Muschany)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Children and Families by a vote of 11 to 0.

This substitute changes the laws regarding special education services. In its main provisions, the substitute:

(1) Requires school districts and special school districts to engage in a planning process to provide special education and related services for handicapped children three to four years of age by coordinating with public, private, and private not-for-profit agencies;

(2) Specifies that school districts providing early childhood special education must continue services at the parent's request, with Part C providers under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Act for the remainder of the school year when developing an individualized educational program for a student, unless this would result in a cost which exceeds the district's costs of providing that same service;

(3) Removes the provision which specifies that a preference will be given to the continuation of services with the student's provider unless the average per-student cost of the early childhood education in the district is exceeded;

(4) Requires parents to notify a school district six months prior to their child's third birthday to allow the district to plan for appropriate staffing needs; and

(5) Requires that school districts give Part C providers an opportunity to adjust its charges so that they are less than the district's cost of providing that same service.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Income on General Revenue Fund of \$0 to Unknown in FY 2006, FY 2007, and FY 2008. No impact on Other State Funds in FY 2006, FY 2007, and FY 2008.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say the bill will allow special education students to continue to receive First Steps services for the remainder of the school year.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Days; Missouri State Teachers Association; Missouri Nurses' Association; Missouri School Boards Association; and Missouri National Education Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Dominic Lackey, Legislative Analyst