

HCS SCS SB 161 -- FOUNDING DOCUMENTS PROTECTION ACT

SPONSOR: Gross (Chinn)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 15 to 0.

This substitute prevents local school boards from being prohibited from allowing teachers and administrators to read from or post any excerpt from a specified list of documents related to American and Missouri history, the civil rights movement, and patriotism, in public school buildings or at school events. The substitute prohibits censorship of any of the specified items based on religious content or reference.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2006, FY 2007, and FY 2008.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that school administrators and teachers need to be able to post primary documents without fear of interference from outside influences.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Gross; Gregory Thompson; Missouri First, Incorporated; Missouri Family Network; Missouri Baptist Convention, Christian Life Commission; and Nathaniel Rodgeron.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Becky DeNeve, Senior Legislative Analyst