

SB 286 -- OUT-OF-STATE HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS

SPONSOR: Nodler (Kingery)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Higher Education by a vote of 9 to 0.

The Coordinating Board of Higher Education currently issues certificates of approval to operate in Missouri to certain out-of-state public higher education institutions. As of July 1, 2006, all previously issued certificates granted to out-of-state public higher education institutions will be revoked. This bill requires the board to hold these institutions to criteria no lower than those required of Missouri public higher education institutions. The board must promulgate rules for its implementation no later than December 31, 2005.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Cost on General Revenue Fund of \$750 to Unknown in FY 2006, FY 2007, and FY 2008. Expected to be less than \$100,000. No impact on Other State Funds in FY 2006, FY 2007, and FY 2008.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that there is an equity issue involved in state-supported colleges in Missouri being held to higher standards than state-supported colleges from neighboring states offering programs in Missouri. If an out-of-state college has a physical presence in the state competing with Missouri programs, it should meet Missouri program standards.

Testifying for the bill was Senator Nodler.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Becky DeNeve, Senior Legislative Analyst