

HCS HB 1036 -- ELECTRONIC VIDEO INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

SPONSOR: Kingery (Sander)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Higher Education by a vote of 9 to 0 with 1 present.

Beginning January 1, 2007, this substitute requires closed or open captioning on electronic video instructional materials, as defined in the substitute, designed for use in educational institutions. Exceptions are made for certain materials. If a publisher knowingly fails to comply with the requirements, the entity that paid for the materials may receive damages of 10 times the amount paid to have them captioned.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2007, FY 2008, and FY 2009.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that even for a deaf person who has a sign-language interpreter, signing the content of a movie in a darkened classroom is awkward and disruptive. Captions are invaluable, not just for the hearing-impaired, but also for people who are learning English and beginning readers.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Sander; Missouri Commission for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired; Governor's Council on Disabilities; James Jones; Brenda Muntz; Mary Stodden; and Kim Davis.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Becky DeNeve, Senior Legislative Analyst