

HCS HB 1180 -- SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION

SPONSOR: Baker, 123 (Corcoran)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Special Committee on Student Achievement and Finance by a vote of 8 to 0.

This substitute allows school districts that can demonstrate certain unsafe traffic conditions to provide transportation to students who live less than one mile from school without incurring an administrative penalty.

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

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that especially in urban areas, many students live less than a mile from school and face dangerous situations on the way to school. An administrative penalty is imposed if a district has more than 12% of its ridership carried for less than a mile, even if the bus has empty seats.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Corcoran; Dr. Paul Doerr and Doug Baum, Ritenour School District; Missouri National Education Association; Missouri School Boards' Association; Cooperating School Districts of Greater St. Louis; and Missouri Federation of Teachers and School-Related Personnel.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say the penalty was imposed to diminish the effect on overall transportation funding of students riding the bus short distances.

Others testifying on the bill was Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Becky DeNeve, Senior Legislative Analyst