

HCS HB 1449 -- BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR TEACHERS

SPONSOR: Cunningham, 86 (Wright, 159)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 16 to 0.

This substitute specifies that if a teacher retires from a Missouri school and returns to the classroom within a year as a substitute or part-time teacher, the state will not require another background check. If the teacher is hired by a district other than the one from which he or she retired, the former employing district will send the new employing district the teacher's background check information. School districts are not prohibited from requiring additional background checks.

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

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that it seems absurd for a teacher to retire in June, return as a substitute teacher in August, and be subject to a new background check. The current requirement makes it more difficult to find substitute teachers.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Wright (159); Ken Jackson, Dexter School District; Clint Johnston, Bunker School District; and Missouri School Boards' Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education retains background checks for six months.

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

Becky DeNeve, Senior Legislative Analyst