

HB 1522 -- HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMAS

SPONSOR: Sander

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 14 to 0.

Currently, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education is prohibited from developing any policy that would place additional information such as attendance or class rank on a student's high school diploma. This bill repeals that prohibition.

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

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the repeal of this provision clears the way for the State Board of Education to implement a differentiated diploma showing more information than a current diploma. This is based on the recommendation of the state board's high school task force. The bill doesn't create the diploma, but it does remove an obstacle.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Sander; and Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say the effect of a differentiated diploma on tracking needs to be considered. Districts will need flexibility in implementing the differentiated diploma.

Others testifying on the bill was Missouri National Education Association.

Becky DeNeve, Senior Legislative Analyst