

HCS HB 1607 -- A+ SCHOOLS PROGRAM

SPONSOR: Baker, 123 (Schneider)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Special Committee on Student Achievement and Finance by a vote of 7 to 1.

Currently, a student who qualifies for the A+ Schools Program must attend a public community college, vocational, or technical school. This substitute allows qualified students to attend private, not-for-profit vocational and technical schools currently accredited by the North Central Association. Reimbursements at these schools must not exceed the community college tuition rate for similar course work offered within the service area of a community college or violate the constitutional provisions that prohibit the use of public funds for religious purposes.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Cost on General Revenue Fund of Less than \$271,500 in FY 2007, Less than \$543,000 in FY 2008, and Less than \$543,000 in FY 2009. No impact on Other State Funds in FY 2007, FY 2008, and FY 2009.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the St. Louis and St. Charles area does not have, at the area community college and vocational-technical schools, the kind of technical education that Ranken offers. The superintendents in St. Charles County support the bill because it offers more opportunities for their students.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Schneider; Ben Ernst, President, Ranken Technical College.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Becky DeNeve, Senior Legislative Analyst