

HCS HB 425 -- STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

SPONSOR: Cunningham, 86 (Pearce)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 10 to 2.

This substitute specifies the conditions under which it is permissible for a public school district to provide transportation to resident students who do not attend the district's public schools. If all public school students are accommodated, transportation can be accomplished without the use of state or additional local funds or capital expense, and the parent agrees to pay the actual cost of transporting the student, the local school board may then provide the transportation. The substitute also specifies how to determine the cost and the payment requirements. Any district providing this transportation must develop rules to address the seating of non-public school students and the development of bus routes. Local school boards may establish additional rules for eligibility and are allowed to use their buses for purposes they consider appropriate.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2008, FY 2009, and FY 2010.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that giving schools the flexibility to earn a little money will help both taxpayers and students.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Pearce.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that it is difficult to develop a policy that will not violate constitutional prohibitions; also disciplinary and liability issues are concerns.

Testifying against the bill was Missouri National Education Association.