

HB 489 -- GIFTED EDUCATION

SPONSOR: Baker (123)

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

This bill requires school districts to identify academically gifted students pursuant to rules established by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Specific deadlines for gifted program applications and reporting are removed, and the department is allowed to specify the filing and reporting dates.

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

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that gifted students need to be identified in order to receive services. For consistency, programs should meet departmental standards.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Baker (123); Missouri State Teachers Association; and Cooperating School Districts of Greater St. Louis.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.