

HCS HB 493 -- CHILD SUPPORT

SPONSOR: Franz (Baker, 123)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Special Committee on Family Services by a vote of 5 to 4.

This substitute allows a parent to stop paying child support when his or her child reaches 21 years of age or is at least 18 years of age and receives two failing grades in any one semester when enrolled in at least 12 credit hours of higher education. A parent who has a child diagnosed with a developmental or physical disability by two licensed physicians after the child reaches 18 years of age will not be required to pay support when the child reaches 21 years of age.

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

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill does not lessen the requirements for parents paying child support but rather is a move toward fairness for divorced parents to be able to make the same financial choices for their children in college as married parents are allowed. The bill would help courts interpret the current law more accurately.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Baker (123); and Rich Myers.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that if the bill passes, the courts will be flooded with claims to terminate child support payments.

Testifying against the bill was Carla Holste.