

## HCS HB 620 -- TEACHER CERTIFICATION AND MENTORING STANDARDS

SPONSOR: Muschany

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

This substitute requires the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to create mentoring standards for beginning teachers and principals no later than June 30, 2008. The substitute specifies the principles for mentoring and the benchmarks for quality programs. The department is required to involve representatives from various educational and professional development sectors to participate in the creation of the standards.

Teachers who have been certified through the American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence are allowed to acquire a provisional teacher's certificate pending completion of professional development, mentoring, contact-hour requirements, and a performance-based evaluation within a two-year period.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Cost on General Revenue Fund of \$15,000 in FY 2008, \$0 in FY 2009, and \$0 in FY 2010. No impact on Other State Funds in FY 2008, FY 2009, and FY 2010

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that mentoring standards will help provide guidance and consistency for current mentoring programs. The American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence (ABCTE) has developed an additional alternative route for adults who want to join the teacher workforce. Business owners appreciate the real-world dimension that ABCTE-certified teachers can bring to developing the next generation of the workforce.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Muschany; David Saba, American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence; Missouri School Boards' Association; Cooperating School Districts of Greater St. Louis; and Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that alternative methods for career-changing adults to gain certification already exist. It would be better to strengthen those methods than add another one.

Testifying against the bill were Missouri National Education Association; and American Federation of Teachers-Missouri.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say while the ABCTE is improving its rigor, it is still short on contact time and might be better used for middle and high school teachers. The

mentoring is now teacher-oriented and would benefit by adding material for administrators.

Testifying on the bill were Missouri State Teachers Association; and Missouri Council of School Administrators.