

HB 727 -- SCHOOL NURSE SALARIES

SPONSOR: Portwood

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Special Committee on Homeland Security by a vote of 7 to 0.

Beginning with the 2008-2009 school year, this bill requires school nurses to be paid on the same pay scale as teachers with equivalent work history and working hours in their district. The term "salary" will not include supplements for extra duties.

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

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that school nurses have a lot more responsibilities because there are so many special medical needs students. They deserve professional pay for professional work and pay parity with teachers.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Portwood; Kathy Wallace; Barbara Vendt; Charlotte Wiegert; Brad Spicer; and Missouri National Education Association.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that they are concerned that the funding for increased school nurse salaries will reflect upon the school foundation formula; but if an outside funding source is located, they would be less opposed.

Testifying against the bill were Missouri School Boards Association; and Missouri Council of School Administrators.