

HCS HB 771 -- COMPENSATION OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

SPONSOR: Bearden

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Special Committee on Student Achievement by a vote of 7 to 1.

This substitute establishes the Superintendent Targeted Achievement Record (STAR) Program. The total compensation package, as defined in the substitute, of each school administrator must be reported to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education by September 1 of each year. Each district will also annually furnish the total compensation package of the highest paid teacher, the superintendent, and the average for all classroom teachers to the department. Performance measures regarding the No Child Left Behind Act, the district accreditation program, and teacher turnover are also required to be published. The substitute contains provisions concerning the posting of the information on the department's and school districts' web sites. The information must be provided to parents, community members, media, and legislators by the deadline or as soon as it becomes available. Failure to file the information will affect a district's accreditation.

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

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that although much of the information referred to in the bill is available on the Internet and all of it is public information, it is difficult to locate the information and members of the public are sometimes intimidated about asking for it. The STAR Program will pull key measures into one easily identified location.

Testifying for the bill were Representatives Bearden and Cunningham (86); and Missouri Press Association.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that singling out school superintendents from other public employees doesn't make sense.

Testifying against the bill were Missouri Council of School Administrators/School Administrators Coalition; Dr. Roy Moss, North Callaway County R-I District; and Cooperating School Districts of Greater Kansas City.