

HCS SCS SB 64 -- ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

SPONSOR: Goodman (Wallace)

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

This substitute changes the laws regarding elementary and secondary education. In its main provisions, the substitute:

(1) Establishes a procedure for school districts to set an opening date of school earlier than 10 days before Labor Day by holding a hearing;

(2) Revises the calendar requirements for make-up days by requiring six additional days to be scheduled for inclement weather purposes and requires making up half of any days missed in excess of six;

(3) Authorizes an exemption to the calendar requirements for the 2006-2007 school year for districts affected by inclement weather on or after January 12, 2007;

(4) Requires mentoring standards to be established for beginning teachers by June 30, 2008, and establishes benchmarks for quality programs;

(5) Establishes a new initial license category for teacher applicants who have completed the American Board of Certification for Teacher Excellence Program; and

(6) Codifies procedures for handling the educational needs of children who are placed in residential care facilities by the state but do not require special education services. The substitute includes provisions on how needs will be handled at different types of facilities and requires facilities and districts to cooperate on a general plan.

The provision of the substitute regarding the calendar requirements for the 2006-2007 school year contains an emergency clause.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Cost on General Revenue Fund of \$15,000 in FY 2008, \$0 in FY 2009, and \$0 in FY 2010. Estimated Cost on Other State Funds of Unknown - Greater than \$100,000 in FY 2008, FY 2009, and FY 2010.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that there is a direct link between tourism and the start of school. As schools open earlier, the economy suffers. The bill has a larger measure of local control

than earlier versions.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Goodman; Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Tri-County Lodging Association; Missouri Attraction Association; Missouri Camp Alliance; Missouri Travel Council; Missouri Canoe and Floaters Association; Missouri Citizens for the Arts.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.