

HCS HB 689 -- BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR SCHOOL PERSONNEL

SPONSOR: Wallace (Bringer)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 12 to 0.

Currently, teachers and other school personnel who have contact with students must undergo a criminal background check. This substitute makes the background check valid for one year and transferrable from one school district to another, even if there is a change in the type of certification a teacher holds.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2010, FY 2011, and FY 2012.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that multiple background checks are an expensive nuisance for a person who may work in more than one district, such as a substitute teacher, and should not be necessary just because a person changes his or her type of certification.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Bringer; Missouri National Education Association; Missouri State Teachers Association; Luana Gifford, American Federation of Teachers; Department of Elementary and Secondary Education; Missouri Council of School Administrators; and Cooperating School Districts of Greater Kansas City.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.