

HCS SS SCS SB 734 -- ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

SPONSOR: Pearce (Wallace)

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

This substitute requires each school district to include in its annual accountability report information about the status of its gifted education program and indicate if it has had a state-approved gifted education program within the last three years. Each school district must identify its gifted students and may establish appropriate programs or differentiated services for them. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education must develop a list of identification criteria with emphasis on early identification. Gifted programs and services must be funded by a school district from its basic state aid with certain exceptions as specified in the substitute.

Beginning in Fiscal Year 2013, the Division of School Improvement within the department may ensure that each Regional Professional Development Center provides professional development educational assistance for fine arts, which may include acting as a resource for and working with school districts in staff development and curriculum issues related to fine arts education and fine arts integration; coordinating services available from other entities involved in fine arts education and fine arts integration; and contributing to the development and implementation of in-service training that responds to the needs of arts specialists and other educators concerning the fine arts. Each center must identify ways in which school districts can become more cost effective; achieve efficiencies; reduce costs; and minimize purchasing by allowing certain districts to share a superintendent or engage in group administration of certain services and allowing districts to engage in group purchases of supplies and insurance or participate in a deferred compensation plan.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Cost on General Revenue Fund of \$0 in FY 2011, \$0 in FY 2012, and Up to \$686,400 in FY 2013. No impact on Other State Funds in FY 2011, FY 2012, and FY 2013.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that fine arts education helps students in every facet of learning. Incorporating arts into core courses helps keep students engaged. The Regional Professional Development Centers may be able to provide additional assistance besides professional development.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Pearce; Kyna Iman, Missouri Alliance for Arts Education; and Missouri Citizens for the Arts.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that the physical education waivers do not meet state standards and do not promote lifelong health habits. The waivers may establish a precedent that lets students substitute math club participation for a math course.

Testifying against the bill were Carol Cox; Thomas Loughrey; Missouri National Education Association; and American Heart Association.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that there are concerns about the physical education standards. It is possible, under the right circumstances, for two small districts that are not contiguous to share a superintendent.

Testifying on the bill were Missouri State Teachers Association; and Larry Davis.