

HB 1111 -- SCHOOL DISTRICT FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS

SPONSOR: Rowland

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 16 to 1.

School districts had been excused from spending funds for professional development and fund placement requirements in fiscal years 2011, 2012, and 2013. This bill extends the excusal to years in which the basic funding formula apportionment is underfunded or the transportation categorical funding is less than a 75% reimbursement rate or the year after any withholdings for the basic formula apportionment.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the underfunding of the formula disproportionately affects smaller districts, for whom the professional development and fund placement requirements can be difficult. Many have cut bus routes and staff.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Rowland; Jerry Hobbs, Russellville School District; Missouri Association of School Administrators; and Missouri School Boards' Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say the requirements could use a different type of flexibility, rather than an arbitrary percentage.

Testifying on the bill were Missouri National Education Association and Missouri State Teachers Association.