

HCS HB 1949 -- HIGHER EDUCATION PROFESSIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTIONS

SPONSOR: Thomson

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Higher Education by a vote of 13 to 0.

This bill changes the laws regarding the approval of teacher training programs in higher education institutions. In its main provisions, the bill:

(1) Establishes the Missouri Advisory Board for Educator Preparation within the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, to advise the State Board of Education and the Coordinating Board for Higher Education on matters of mutual interest in quality educator preparation programs; and

(2) Repeals an obsolete provision that allows the State Board of Education to accredit law schools.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that some communication issues emerged with new teacher standards that prompted the filing of the bill; the bill has been worked out to the satisfaction of both departments involved to provide a structured process for advisory board input.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Thomson; Department of Elementary and Secondary Education; Rusty Monhollon, Department of Higher Education; Paul Wagner, Council on Public Higher Education; David Russell, Commissioner of Higher Education; St. Louis Community College; University of Central Missouri; and University of Phoenix.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.