

HB 1949 -- TEACHER TRAINING

SPONSOR: Thomson

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

(1) Changes the authority to establish standards and procedures by which teacher education programs will be approved, from the current procedure which involves only the State Board of Education (SBE) to joint authority of the SBE with the Coordinating Board for Higher Education (CBHE), with the guidance and approval of the Missouri Advisory Board for Educator Preparation (MABEP);

(2) Establishes the MABEP within the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, to consist of eight voting members appointed as specified in the bill and the commissioners of education and higher education ex officio, who will rotate the chairmanship each year;

(3) Specifies the duties and responsibilities of the MABEP, which include but are not limited to, discussion of policy issues and proposed changes to standards and practices relating to educator and administrator preparation; recommendations about evaluation and approval of preparation programs; facilitating communication with those who are interested in developing quality educators; and meeting at least three times annually; and

(4) Prohibits the SBE from approving a teacher preparation program before receiving a formal recommendation from CBHE.