

HB 1429 -- FUNDING FOR GIFTED EDUCATION

SPONSOR: Sommer

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

Beginning July 1, 2017, this bill adds a weight of six-tenths for each gifted student who exceeds the school district's gifted threshold to the calculation of its weighted average daily attendance in the school foundation funding formula. A school district that is found by audit to have spent gifted funds on matters not directly related to gifted education must repay the aid and a 100% penalty if it cannot resolve the audit finding.

This bill is similar to HB 532 (2015).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say this bill will help to make sure districts have the resources, abilities, and people needed to provide for gifted children. We need to make sure and earmark money for gifted children if we are saying we are going to provide for special education needs. Gifted children need a challenge to stay engaged.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Sommer; The Missouri National Education Association; and Danielle Sommer.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that something to keep in mind is the bill that made the change two years ago. Any time you make a change in Average Daily Attendance (ADA) the legislature needs to make up the difference. It will make formula changes in how much money they receive and will thus increase funding in the formula throughout the state.

Testifying on the bill was Mike Lodewegen.