

HB 1871 -- SCHOOL FINANCING AUDITS

SPONSOR: Cookson

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 9 to 4. Voted "Do Pass" by the Select Committee on Education by a vote of 8 to 2.

This bill requires that any time an audit examination of financial, transportation, and attendance records of a school district is conducted, the audit must separately disclose the following information relating to extracurricular activities within the district:

- (1) Standard rent for facilities used;
- (2) Salaries, benefits, and stipends for athletic directors;
- (3) Salary stipends for coaches, sponsors, or faculty supervisors;
- (4) Twenty percent of school administrator salaries;
- (5) Equipment and uniform costs;
- (6) Travel expenses and mileage;
- (7) Dues or fees paid to any statewide organization that supervises extracurricular activities; and
- (8) Costs associated with game officials, scorekeepers, or timekeepers.

The audit must include how much was spent for all extracurricular activities, the revenue generated from each of the activities, and how much was spent on each activity.

A public meeting must be held to present the results of any audit examination performed, with time allocated for public comment and notice of the meeting must be published in the local newspaper at least two weeks prior to the meeting.

This bill is similar to HB 1017 (2015).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill provides transparency for parents and the public regarding where money is being spent in school districts.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Cookson.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that audits are dictated by federal standards and the bill doesn't mesh well with those standards and that forensic audits are complex endeavors which result in the use of more time and more money.

Testifying against the bill were Missouri Society Of CPAs and Missouri Council Of School Administrators.